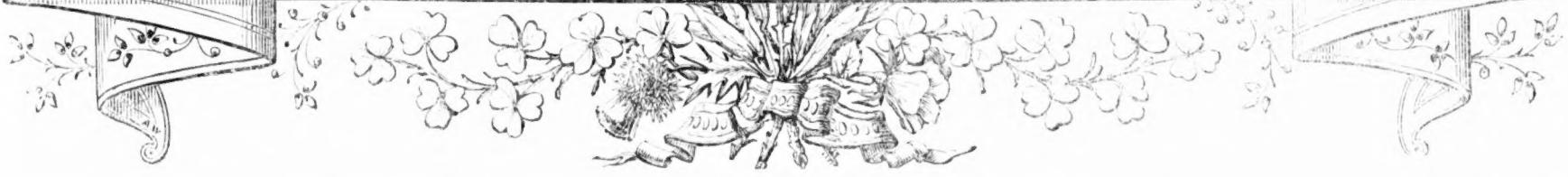


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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

NATURALLY, in considering the leading occurrences of the week, the mind first rests upon that event which is most interesting to the highest personage in the land. The marriage of her Majesty's second daughter, under any circumstances, would be certain to interest her subjects; but the nuptials of Princess Alice have been solemnised under circumstances peculiar and solemn. It scarcely required the presence of the Queen, habited in mourning weeds, to recall to

mind that the ceremony had been postponed in consequence of the sad bereavement that befell the Royal family in December last, and that the gloom of that bereavement still hangs like a funeral pall over her Majesty's heart and household. That the late Prince Consort's absence from his daughter's wedding should have been keenly felt by all is but natural; but how poignant must have been the feelings awakened in her Majesty's heart by the sight of the vacant place at her side which should have been filled by him who had stood there on so many

other occasions of anxiety and interest! On a theme like this it would be as improper as it is impossible to dilate: such emotions are better fitted for secret sympathy than for public comment. As regards the young couple themselves, the only feeling which can be entertained is one common to all such occasions—namely, an ardent hope that the union formed in the chapel at Osborne, on Tuesday, will be productive of all the happiness that each father and mother in the kingdom would wish for their own children in like circumstances. The



THE LADY GODIVA PROCESSION THROUGH THE STREETS OF COVENTRY.

Prince and Princess are young, and, as it is believed that their union is one of pure affection, they have every chance of enjoying the full measure of felicity allotted to humanity: and that we heartily wish them. The time has gone by when Royal marriages in this country were matters of much political importance, and therefore it is unnecessary to dwell upon that view of the subject; and yet it is satisfactory to know that the family of Prince Louis is associated with liberal and progressive ideas in politics, rather than, as is the case with another branch of the same stock, with retrogression and absoluteism. The house of Hesse Darmstadt, like that of Coburg-Gotha, is Protestant in religion, somewhat inclined to Liberalism in politics, and is associated with that portion of the German Princes who lean more to the constitutionalism of the west than to the despotism of the east of Europe. This is satisfactory: though, after all, it is not a matter of great moment to the people of Great Britain, whose institutions are little likely to be affected—though we have all good reason to know that our minds may be enlightened, our habits improved, and our taste elevated—by the residence among us of educated and refined reigns. The life and influence of the father of Princess Alice are ample proofs of this.

Of home political topics there is this week something of a dearth. The new attempt to extend the game laws we have dealt with in another column, and need not enlarge upon it here. The job connected with the Thames embankment would, from some of the incidents that have occurred in relation to it, be ludicrous were it not of very serious importance to the metropolitan public. The scenes in the House of Commons arising out of this matter, and the jokes about the "tall Higgins and t'other Higgins," are amusing enough; but the renewal of the Duke of Buccleuch's lease of the site of Montagu House, and the attempt of the Embankment Committee to gleaze over so scandalous a job, deserve, as we doubt not they will receive, the most determined opposition and castigation. It is intolerable that our officials, whose special duty it is to watch over the public interests, should lend themselves in such a shameful way to serve private purposes at the expense of the community whom they are bound to protect. We trust that even yet the scheme may be frustrated, and that the great public improvement contemplated on the banks of the Thames may be carried out in its integrity.

The Royal Agricultural Society's Show, in Battersea Park, which was brought to a close on Wednesday, has been a subject for unalloyed satisfaction, and is the more so from the fact that it was not confined to English products, but embraced a view of the state of agriculture in most parts of Europe. If the International Exhibition is calculated to advance artistic taste and manufacturing ingenuity and industry, the Show in Battersea Park is equally fitted to accomplish the same end for agriculture—a result no less important than the other. We trust to see a repetition of such gatherings again, and that foreigners will be more fully represented in them than they were even on this occasion.

Turning to foreign affairs, the attention is at once fixed on America. The position and intentions of the French in Mexico, and the state of matters in the more northern portion of that great continent, being the leading points of interest in foreign lands. It is now beyond a doubt that the French troops have both sustained a check and inflicted a chastisement in Mexico—they were repulsed near Puebla, and beat a Mexican force at Cumbres. The result of the latter affair is the junction of a party of native Reactionists with General Lorencez's army; but it is melancholy to think that the only consequence yet achieved has been to increase the anarchy previously existing in that unhappy country, and that in the future there is the certainty of retribution upon the Mexicans for having dared to resist the invading force. It is impossible to doubt that France will ultimately compel the Mexicans to agree to any terms she may choose to dictate; but it is very questionable indeed whether a better and a more stable and honest Government will be the result of French interference. The Emperor may be sincere in desiring only to establish a better Government in the land of the Montezumas, and honest in professing to leave the choice of that Government to the people themselves; but it may well be doubted if the means adopted are well calculated to attain the proposed end. We fear there is a long period of augmented trouble before the Mexicans, and no small measure of labour and expense looming in the future for France, in consequence of the present position of the Mexican question. At all events, the British people have good reason to congratulate themselves on having washed their hands of the whole affair.

As regards the struggle in the late American Union, the only inference to be drawn from late events is, that the conclusion of the contest is yet far distant. The boldness and determination of the Confederates seem to increase as difficulties thicken around them, while the spirit of the North is yet high and little disposed to listen to accommodation. The season may compel inaction for a time—may make the vigorous prosecution of the war for the present impossible; but we fear that both parties must further exhaust themselves ere the voice of reason and humanity can be heard, and any arrangement of the quarrel become possible. Meanwhile, it behoves us to look about and bestir ourselves to find elsewhere the means of carrying on our industrial occupations; for it is clear that from America we cannot for a long time have any considerable supplies of the raw material of our staple manufacture. To relieve the present necessities of our manufacturing population, and develop the cotton-growing capacities of every available portion of the globe, are the objects to which all parties among us should now devote their energies. We trust that this will be done, and at once.

THE LADY GODIVA PROCESSION AT COVENTRY.

OWING to the stagnation of trade, the revival of the Lady Godiva Show at Coventry was undertaken by a committee of gentlemen for the purpose of affording employment to a number of people, and in the hope that it would attract a large number of visitors to the city. Both of these objects have been realised. Cheap trips were run into Coventry from Birmingham, Leicester, Nottingham, and the districts round, which contributed in all about 35,000 visitors. The day was fine, and everybody seemed in the best of good humour.

The procession started from the churchyard at twelve o'clock, and moved along Hay-lane, through High-street, in front of Broadgate and Hertford-street, where Peeping Tom looked down upon them, arrayed in a cocked-hat, clothed with a blue-spotted singlet and red shirt, looking sly enough, but wonderfully well, by reason of much paint. Two heralds, dressed appropriately, and looking as fierce as burnt cork moustaches could make them, rode on horseback, and following the band of a detachment of the 1st Dragoon Guards, their bright scarlet uniforms, brass helmets, and nodding plumes showing well in the bright sunshine. The city arms are an elephant and castle, with the motto "Civites Coventria." It happened that Wombwell's show was at the fair, so the elephant was borrowed and a pasteboard castle was put upon his back. He walked next. Then came the band of the menagerie, all the men dressed up and riding in a carriage drawn by horses and camels. After these appeared twelve men in their shirt sleeves (none of the cleanest), wearing curious pieces of iron on their heads, breasts, and backs. St. George, the canonised pork-butcher of Cappadocia, armed cap-a-pie, with feathers in his helmet, and looking as though the joints of his armour were stiff and nipped him, followed the twelve men with tureens and porringers. St. George's attendant was dressed in the costume of a Templar and looked happier than his master. Members and followers of the Drapers', the Cappers', and the Worsted-weavers' Companies appeared. The followers of the companies were represented by two children—a boy and a girl. There were very many of these children throughout the procession, and they attracted nearly as much attention as the heroine herself. The children were dressed in the richest silks and satins manufactured in the city. After them came the Warwickshire Yeomanry band, the city banner, the Captain of the Coventry Volunteer Fire Brigade, an engine drawn by four horses, and the members of the brigade on horseback. These men wore a red sash over a dark-coloured body-coat, and on the breast a Maltese cross. Then came the Ancient Order of Foresters, preceded by a streamer: the bra's band in full costume, a plume of orange-coloured feathers waving in each headdress. Following were Robin Hood, Will Scarlet, Maid Marian, Friar Tuck, and Little John. Marian was a brunette: Friar Tuck's stomach had not been fastened securely, and hung over the sides of the horse like a bundle of old clothes, but the jolly old Friar appeared to be in happy ignorance of this state of affairs. A boy carrying a fawn; Foresters leading dogs, and carrying bows and arrows; six harriers; the Chief Ranger and committee, in a chaise-and-pair, decorated; streamers, banners, and about 150 members in full regalia, comprehended the demonstration made by this important society. They were followed by the Black Prince, in the blackest of black armour, seated on a black saddle-cloth and riding a black Flemish horse enveloped in heavy black velvet cloths. After many other bands and companies had passed came two heralds, one bearing on a banner "To the pure all things are pure," and, on a white charger, Lady Godiva. Her appearance evoked a loud shout of applause—scarcely a cheer; it appeared to proceed more from the gratification of the people at being freed from their long suspense than in admiration of the lady herself. Following Lady Godiva came her husband, in an appropriate dress, but without

His beard a foot before him, and his hair
A yard behind,

which Tennyson tells us he wore. At this stage some slight break occurred in the progress of the cavalcade. At the top of Hertford-street were grouped in picturesque confusion kings, queens, beadle, pietry children, heralds, men in shirt-sleeves with immense red rosettes in front of their hats, and a number of supposititious warriors bearing flags. Here was the unfortunate Richard II, chaffing Henry VIII., who wore an immense red beard, and appeared afraid of its coming off; Queen Elizabeth tête-à-tête with Sir John Falstaff; Henry IV. in a pet with Sir Thomas White (temp. Henry VIII.), who would keep backing his horse in the wrong direction; and all the while Queen Margaret, the "she-wolf of France," was lecturing her spouse, Henry VI., who wore straight black hair, and, notwithstanding the gorgeousness of his robes, looked the "fat boy" in "Pickwick" more than a king. Commoners, in plain black suits, with white wands in their hands, rode in and out amongst this motley group, one moment calling Henry VIII. to come forward, the next holding back Henry and Margaret with a fierce gesture and an outstretched arm, to allow Richard II. to pass to his place. The robes and dresses of the kings and queens were most grand; rich gold embroidery adorned the Imperial purples and blues, heads were dazzling bright with tinsel crowns, and breasts sparkled with diamonds and jewels of the finest paste. After a good deal of manoeuvring the kings and queens found their appointed places, and the cavalcade passed on.

At the end of the procession came the 10th Leicestershire Rifle Corps, and last of all, on a hurry and four, a youth and a maiden—a handsome "Florizel" and a pretty "Perdita"—dressed as a shepherd and shepherdess, seated in a sylvan bower, and at their feet a sheepdog and a lamb. This was a very appropriate and beautiful ending for the procession.

THE REVENUE.

THE quarterly revenue returns once more present the feature of a net increase, though a very small one, coinciding with an important decrease in the two great feeders of the public Treasury. Compared with the corresponding period of last year, the present quarter shows a clear increase of £11,310, while a falling off of £30,000 is noticeable in the Customs, and of £285,000 in the Excise. The decrease in the Excise contrasts strongly with the large increase which the last quarter's returns exhibit; but the smallness of the deficiency in the Customs revenue, having regard to the continuance of the American war, is satisfactory, the more so that last quarter it reached £100,000. The Income Tax shows an increase, but one not nearly so large as that of last quarter; and the same may be said of Stamps. Looking the revenue of the quarter as a whole, it shows a remarkable concordance under the operation of depressing forces.

Quarter end June 30, 1862	Quarter end June 30, 1861	Year end June 30, 1862	Year end June 30, 1861	Year ended June 31, 1862	Increase Decrease	
					Net Revenue.	Net Revenue.
Customs...	5,791,000	5,821,000	23,644,000	23,394,000	25,000	—
Excise...	4,886,000	5,171,000	18,047,000	19,492,000	—	1,445,000
Stamps...	2,253,000	2,186,000	8,657,943	8,466,170	191,753	—
Taxes...	1,357,000	1,363,000	3,154,000	3,138,000	18,000	—
Property-tax...	2,772,000	2,588,000	10,549,000	12,423,000	... 1,874,000	—
Post Office...	850,000	825,000	3,545,000	3,400,000	153,000	—
Crown Lands...	68,000	67,000	296,000	291,508	4,432	—
Miscellaneous...	432,904	377,594	1,302,441	1,260,356	542,488	—
Total...	18,409,004	18,398,594	69,685,782	71,863,094	1,141,695	3,319,000
					Net decrease	... £2,177,305

INDIAN FINANCE.—A Blue-book has just appeared containing the correspondence of the Secretary of State for India with the Indian Government on the subject of the finances of that country. It turns out that Mr. Laing's rose-tinted view of the Indian revenue does not correspond with the realities of the case. Acting upon a too implicit reliance on these expectations, the Government in India have reduced taxes and increased expenditure in such a way as, if carried out, will leave the Government in a deficit next year of more than £600,000. Sir Charles Wood admits that they cannot reimpose the remitted taxes, but he expressly notices the increased expenditure, and enjoins a still more stringent economy in the existing expenses so as to make the two ends meet.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

During the discussion on Extraordinary Credits in the Chamber of Deputies, on the 26th ult., M. Jules Favre censured the expedition to Mexico, and requested explanations, which he said public opinion awaited with impatience. He recalled the origin of the expedition, and cited the Convention of London limiting its extent. M. Favre also examined the phases of the expedition, the Convention of Soledat, and the councils of the Plenipotentiaries of the three Powers which finally led to a rupture. M. Jules Favre maintained that France ought not to support Almonte. On the following day M. Billault replied on the part of the Government. Having described the causes that determined the three Powers to engage in the expedition and entered into explanations as to the circumstances that led to the withdrawal of England and Spain, he said that, notwithstanding the momentary disagreement between them, the three Governments remained on good terms. He admitted, at the same time, that the French Government had no complaint whatever against England for the withdrawal, as that Power had from the first objected to an expedition into the interior. He added that the honour of France was engaged to avenge the insults offered to them, but that the Emperor had no thought of imposing any Government on Mexico. All they desired was that the Mexicans would choose for themselves a Government with which other countries could deal. After several bills had been passed Count de Morny, the President of the Chamber, delivered a speech, thanking the Deputies for their good will. The Session was then closed, the members separating with cries of "Vive l'Empereur!"

Much dissatisfaction is expressed by the journals as to the conduct of Almonte, who is accused of having deceived the French Government as to the disposition of the Mexican people by leading it to believe that the Mexicans were ready for a change which experience has shown they were not inclined to make.

BELGIUM.

Advices from Brussels state that the liberty of the press is seriously menaced in Belgium, the Minister of Justice, M. Tschich-Föder, having proposed a bill introducing great severity towards the public journals and authorising legal proceedings against correspondents of foreign papers. Numerous petitions are being signed against the measure.

SPAIN.

On the 25th, in the Senate, Senor Calderon Collantes declared that, as England had suspended the ratification of the convention with Juarez, the Spanish Government would initiate the reserve displayed by the English Cabinet. Negotiations were, however, still being carried on.

ITALY.

The Chamber of Deputies has agreed to the Budget as submitted by the Ministry by 215 against 51 votes.

The Minister of the Interior has issued a circular abolishing the passport system between Italy and England.

The Royal Princes have arrived in the southern provinces, where they have been received with extraordinary enthusiasm.

It is reported that at Manica, Verona, and San Benedetto, an imposing manifestation celebrated the anniversary of the battle of Solferino. Funeral processions were celebrated in spite of the Austrian police, who caused numerous patrols to perambulate the streets. The population, in mourning attire, crowded the churches, and assisted, en masse, at the commemorative ceremony.

AUSTRIA.

In the sitting of the Lower House on the 26th Deputy Wieser made a speech expressing a desire that the Government should come to an understanding with Hungary. The Minister of State replied that the Government spared no means of conciliation to bring about an understanding with that country—always on the basis, however, of the Constitution granted by the Emperor.

ELECTORAL HESSE.

A Ministerial decree, dated the 24th ult., has been published, ordering the election for the Diet to take place in conformity with the Electoral Law of the 5th April, 1849. The dispute between the Elector and his people is therefore brought to a close—at least till a more convenient opportunity shall present itself to his Serene Highness of breaking faith with his subjects.

The Elector left the chateau of Wilhelmshöhe on the 26th ult., with a numerous suite, for Tüplitz.

RUSSIA.

The conflagrations in Russia are spreading from St. Petersburg to the provinces. At Tiflis, on the 16th of May, ten houses were burnt to the ground; at Mohilew, on the 5th of June, twenty houses; at Czernichow, on the 11th of June, forty-four houses, one hundred and thirty-three shops, and a church. Conflagrations have also taken place at Novgorod and at Cronstadt. Terror prevails at the seat of Government. The force intrusted with the care of the public safety has been increased. The houses are closed, and no stranger is admitted. The losses at St. Petersburg are estimated at many hundred millions of roubles. In addition to the numerous arrests that have been made, the sudden disappearance of Colonel Rostoff, Aide-de-Camp of the Emperor, has given rise to much comment. He is accused of being connected with the secret societies, and in correspondence with them. What adds to the excitement caused by this incident is, that the Colonel now denounces as a revolutionist the son of the General who put a stop, by his revelations, to the insurrection of 1825, and was ever afterwards the devoted, confidential adviser of Nicholas.

A telegram from Warsaw reaches us by way of Dresden to the effect that General Lüders, the military governor of Poland, had been shot at and slightly wounded while in a ruined water establishment. The General has been relieved of his functions in Poland and has returned to St. Petersburg. He is suffering considerably from the wound. The perpetrator of the attempt against General Lüders is said to be a Russian officer, a companion in arms of the officers who were not long since sentenced to be shot by the General for political offences, which sentence was carried out.

A subscription has been set on foot at Warsaw in favour of the sufferers from the conflagrations at St. Petersburg. Different Polish landed proprietors have generously taken the initiative, each subscribing a sum of 1000 florins.

GREECE.

Advices from Athens of the 19th of June announce that a general amnesty has been granted for all past offences. It was also expected that a general amnesty would be immediately declared for all persons implicated in the late insurrection.

TURKEY, MONTENEGRO, AND SERVIA.

Some further fighting has taken place between the Turks and Montenegrins, the former having generally had the advantage. Affairs have been arranged at Belgrade, where all is again quiet, though there is considerable latent animosity between the parties. Popular opinion in Servia is reported to be strongly in favour of war with Turkey.

MEXICO.

Mexican news brings us full accounts of the defeat of the French on the 5th of May at Puebla. General Zaragoza's despatch containing the details of the battle appears in full. The Mexican General renders entire credit to the bravery and impetuosity of the French troops, but describes their repulse as not complete. According to his account the French lost over 1000 in killed and wounded. The report of General Lorencez, dated Orizaba, May 22, has been published. It describes the details of the attack on Guadalupe by the French on the 5th of May. It states that the fire of the enemy's artillery was very brisk and well directed. General Lorencez was deceived as to the importance of the fortification of Guadalupe, which was regarded by him as an unimportant work. The vigour and courage of the French troops were admirable. They were, however, obliged to retreat. "Our losses," says General Lorencez, "were 17 officers killed and 29 wounded, 162 rank and file killed and 255 wounded. Information received gives the loss of the enemy at 1,000 men. I waited on

the plateau of Amozoc until the 11th of May for the Mexican allies, whom I was told had the intention of joining us, but without effect; for on the morning of the 10th of May General Zalenga made an arrangement with Diaz, engaging himself to hold the army of Marquez in check while we were before Puebla. This dissipated our illusions. Our retreat was effected without interruption from the enemy.

The *Monitor* of the 29th publishes the following news from Mexico of May 28, received via Southampton:—"Marquez, with 2000 troops, effected a junction with the French expeditionary corps on the 18th of May. The Mexican vanguard, consisting of 1500 men, endeavoured to prevent this movement, but was almost entirely destroyed by our troops."

General Lorenz confirms the account published by the French journals of the "glorious affair" of May 18, in which the enemy, he states, lost a flag, 1200 prisoners, 150 killed, and 250 wounded. The health of the French troops is good, and they are in excellent spirits.

In an order of the day, published on May 21, General Lorenz says:—

"Soldiers!—Your march on Mexico has been arrested by material obstacles which you were far from expecting. It was a hundred times reported to you the Puebla called you, that its inhabitants would receive you with enthusiasm. It was with this confidence, inspired by treacherous hopes, that we presented ourselves before Puebla.

The French have entrenched themselves at Orizaba and succeeded in opening their communications with Vera Cruz. It is hoped that General Lorenz will be able to maintain himself at Orizaba till the month of October, when the sickly weather will have passed and the reinforcements now in readiness can be dispatched in safety and vigorous operations recommended.

INDIA AND CHINA.

There is nothing of striking importance in the Calcutta journals to the 2nd of May, brought by the overland mail. Great regret was felt at the loss of the services of Mr. Liang, who comes over with the mail. The supposed Nana Sahib was at Calcutta, but as doubts still existed as to his identity, he was to be sent to Cawnpore, the scene of his atrocities. The news from China is nearly buried to accounts of attacks on the rebels. The latter had been severely handled by our troops in the vicinity of Shanghai, and the country people were returning to their homes. At Ningpo all communication between the foreign settlement and the city had been cut off. The rebel chief was strongly inclined to foreigners, saying it was now time to eat them up, and had offered a reward of 1000 dollars for the head of Consul F. Harvey, and 100 dollars for every other European head.

WEST INDIES.

The West India mail brings accounts of dreadful torrents of rain in Jamaica which lasted several days, by which the country was completely flooded and all traffic suspended. Several houses had been thrown down, bridges washed away, and landslips were continually occurring. Such weather had not been experienced for many years.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

ANOTHER CONFEDERATE SUCCESS BEFORE RICHMOND.

For the second time a "bold dash" has been made by the Confederates, and with unqualified success. On this occasion—the date was the 11th of June—no sudden storm or flooded river was taken advantage of to pounce upon the besieging army unawares. We are told nothing, it is true, of a division "unaccountably and disastrously giving way," but neither are we told of the assailants after the first dash of success being driven back with great slaughter. The North confesses to having sustained an unquestionable reverse. The Confederate forces, by a well-executed movement, succeeded in outflanking McClellan's army, and, besides damaging a railway, destroyed a quantity of tents and baggage, and carried off a considerable number of prisoners. It would seem that the Confederates, without the slightest attempt at concealment, dispatched a strong force both of cavalry and artillery to Old Church, a point situated on the extreme right of General McClellan's army, and not far distant from the Pamunkey River. Having driven from this position the Federal cavalry, to whom its defence had been intrusted, they advanced to the river, destroyed some shipping there, and then, wheeling round, burned, or attempted to burn, the railway bridge about four miles from the White House; arrested the progress of a train; cut the telegraph wires, took several prisoners, and finally retired un molested to Richmond. The feat in itself was perhaps unimportant, but it indicates a very strange state of things in the Federal army. This exploit was accomplished by the comparatively insignificant force of 1500 cavalry and half a dozen pieces of artillery. That an outpost may be driven in is perfectly conceivable, but that the Confederate cavalry should have been enabled not only to dislodge from their position the cavalry of their opponents, but to push forward several miles from the main body of their own army, do a vast deal of mischief, and ultimately retire without molestation, argues a great amount of apathy, to say the least of it, on the part of the besieging army. As soon as the facts became known, according to General McClellan's statement, a pursuit by cavalry was ordered, which, however, proved ineffectual, owing to "the start" obtained by the enemy. Either facts are communicated but slowly at the head-quarters of General McClellan, or his cavalry are far from vigorous in the pursuit not of a retreating but of an advancing foe. Nor is it alone on his front and on his flanks that the Federal General has reason to complain of the assaults of the Confederates. In his rear a guerrilla warfare is constantly sustained by isolated bodies of the Confederates, which hover in his vicinity on the north side of the Pamunkey River. Altogether the position of McClellan does not resemble that of a General looking forward to speedy victory.

STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE FIELD.

Though little is publicly said upon the subject—the fear of Mr. Stanton and the military censorship being great among the journals of all shades of politics—considerable anxiety is expressed wherever men congregate as to the position of the army before Richmond. General McClellan is not at the head of a force sufficient to risk an attack upon the Confederate capital, and a constant demand for reinforcements reaches Washington from his camp, a demand with which the Government finds much difficulty in complying, though perfectly aware of the urgency of the case. General Beauregard is still in the field in force sufficient to checkmate the large army of General Halleck; and General "Stonewall" Jackson, by his brilliant raid into the Valley of the Shenandoah, has found such ample occupation for the four armies of Generals Fremont, Shields, Banks, and McDowell, as to prevent any reinforcement for McClellan being abstracted from their commands. While such is the position of the Federal army, and while the Government is not without anxiety for the safety of Washington, exposed even now to any daring movement that Jackson or any other Confederate General might attempt, the defenders of Richmond appear to be receiving huge reinforcements every day, and to be growing in audacity as they grow in numbers. At Charleston it appears as if the South had determined to make a stand as obstinate as that which it certainly intends to make before Richmond, with the view, in both places, and especially in Virginia, of avoiding a decisive battle until the harvest is ready for the sickle. The beautiful and fertile Valley of the Shenandoah, which grows grain enough to feed the whole of the Confederate armies, and which has the additional advantage of commanding the approaches to Washington, and of being entirely Southern in its opinions and sympathies, may yet be the scene of a new struggle that may weaken McClellan at the hour of his need and keep the whole North in alarm and perturbation of spirit. The very elements seem to conspire to protract the final conflict. The banks of the Chickahominy are still flooded, and McClellan's inaction is dictated by a double necessity—the want of men and the abundance of water.

FINANCIAL PROSPECTS.

At last the commercial world of New York and the press, which has so long ignored the question, are beginning to perceive that there

may, after all, be too much incontrovertible paper money. Mr. Chase's last proposal to add 150,000,000 "green-backs" to the already over-inflated currency has alarmed the bankers and the great traders, and bids fair to create a panic if it be not withdrawn. A year ago gold was at par. Under the operation of Mr. Chase's "green-backs" it has risen to 7 per cent premium, 2 per cent of which has been on the direct and indirect interest as consequence of his proposal last week to double the existing amount of these legal-tender notes, based solely upon the credit of the Government and its power to collect a large revenue by means of a tax bill and a tariff which have not yet become law. The probability is that the rate will increase still further, and that before a month has passed gold may be at a premium of 10 per cent. This may be an excellent state of affairs for speculators on the Stock Exchange, and for a certain class of bankers and merchants, but it threatens to bring about a financial collapse that will cost the country as much as the war and much more quickly. The warnings of the English press, which have hitherto been unheeded, or ascribed to jealousy of "our great country," are now considered with a little more respect; and the science of political economy—even though founded upon what fast Americans consider the limited experience of the slow and effete Old World, and especially of slow and decaying old England—is found to be of universal application, and not to be set at defiance with impunity, even by so fast and exceptional a country as the United States. With the trade of the nation reduced from an annual aggregate of 5000 millions of dollars to 2500 or, at most, 3000 millions; with few legitimate opportunities for the investment of capital; and with 300 millions of that bad and inconveniencing paper issued by the Government, instead of about 100 millions of convertible paper, which was the average issue of the banks prior to the war, does Mr. Chase imagine that he is putting up anything but a house of cards by his financial system, cards which the first breath of distrust, or the first great military reverse to the arms of the Republic, will not utterly overthrow? If he do, America may teach the nation how to live and how to die, but it certainly, under his financial regime, will not teach them how to calculate.

GEOGRAPHY.

It is admitted by the Federal news papers that Fremont's army in Virginia is short of supplies and in a precarious position, that the Confederate General is being reinforced, and that "the Pathfinder" is retreating. The missing Confederate army, which slipped away from General Halleck, is now reported 80,000 strong at Okolona. Kirby Smith is at Ancoga 20,000 strong, and Vandorn with a small cavalry force is at Granada. General Pope had relinquished his pursuit of Beauregard. It does not appear that the Federal occupation of the Mississippi valley is so complete as we have been told, for there has been active fighting at Baton Rouge, not far from New Orleans. It will possibly be found that the Federals have allowed themselves to fall into a trap in this section: for now, by their own confession, there are yet Confederate soldiers in Louisiana, while there are Federalists further up at Vicksburg. It is reported that the Federals will now form a defensive line from Corinth to Memphis, and abandon their aggressive policy in the West during the summer months. The Confederates have been largely reinforced at Mobile, and are making extraordinary efforts to prevent the capture of that city. No material change has taken place in New Orleans. One man has been hung in that city for hauling down the Federal flag from the Mint. The bill prohibiting slavery in the territories has now passed both Houses of Congress, and the British ship *Circassian* has been condemned at Key West.

The Committee of Ways and Means have reported a bill largely increasing the temporary duties upon imports, imposing an additional duty of twenty-five cents per gallon upon brandy, and an additional duty upon all spirits, iron, copper, coal, carpets, woollens, books, tobacco, coke, and drugs; in fact, upon all articles of foreign importation.

The Naval Committee have reported a bill to Congress establishing naval depots and yards on Lakes Erie, Michigan, and Ontario.

IRELAND.

THE SPECIAL COMMISSION.—The special commission, which stood adjourned to the 1st inst., will not resume its sittings, but the case it was appointed to try, and which have not been opened or, will come before the ordinary Assizes. The people of the city of Limerick are indignant at their town as well as the county being "proclaimed," which has been deemed expedient, by the Irish Government; but it has been admitted by many persons that it would be of no use to proclaim the county if the city were left free. James Walke, who stands charged with the murder of Mr. Fitzgerald, has been stricken with fever, and is now in the hospital of the gaol. It is generally believed that he will turn an approver; and it so fits the evidence will probably disclose some of the secrets of the titanic society, which it is to be tested in an investigation in those localities where a grand jury and a coroner have recently taken place. Two brothers named Dillane are now in gaol, charged with being accessories before the fact to the murder of Mr. Fitzgerald; and a true bill was found against one of them at the opening of the late commission. This indictment will now be quashed, and the trial postponed till the ensuing Assizes for the county of Limerick, which will be held in the latter end of July.

SCOTLAND.

THE YELVERTON CASE.—A trial arising out of that *cause célèbre* the Yelverton case was decided last week in the Court of Edinburgh. The Hon. M. Yelverton, uncle of the Major, and, failing legitimate issue by him, presumptive heir to the Avonmore peerage, has espoused the cause of Mrs. (Longworth) Yelverton, and on one occasion invited that lady to his residence in Wales. This roused the indignation of the other members of the family, and Mr. Walker, a Scotch advocate, who had married a sister of the Major, wrote an angry letter to his wife's uncle on his conduct, and using strong language against his guest. Mr. Yelverton showed the letter to the lady, who raised an action against Mr. Walker for defamation of character, and the jury returned a verdict in her favour, awarding her a small sum of damages to the extent of £500.

THE PROVINCES.

MURDER AT ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—An atrocious murder has been committed by a number of unprincipled brickmakers at Ashton-under-Lyne. For some time past there have been disputes between the union men and the master, and bricks have been mixed with the clay, and bricks destroyed. On Saturday morning last two policemen who were watching a brick-oven saw eight men sneak approaching the place and endeavoured to apprehend them, when one of the fellows shot one of the policemen, named Jupp, dead. Shots were also fired at the other policeman, who was slightly wounded. The murderers escaped.

GALLANT CAPTURE.—The capture of a notorious burglar took place at Southsea, near Portsmouth, a few mornings ago, and is somewhat remarkable for the determined spirit which was displayed by the captor. At the eastern part of Southsea close to the sea beach, is an educational establishment, where young gentlemen are prepared for their examinations for entry into the military and naval services, the principal of which is Mr. Kempthead, who was formerly an inspector of Government schools. On the morning in question Mr. Kempthead was awake just previous to daylight by a noise in the house, and, arming himself with a sword, left his bedroom to ascertain the cause. He soon discovered there was an intruder in the house, who, however, seemed to be making a rapid retreat, and eventually escaped from the house and fled across Southsea-common. Mr. Kempthead's clothing was slight, an easterly wind was blowing, and the figure of the burglar was fast becoming to view; but the gallant principal did not hesitate many seconds before he dashed across the common in pursuit, came up with the thief after a hard run of some minutes' duration, captured him, and conveyed him back in triumph, a prisoner, to the house he had taken so much trouble to enter, but had fled from so precipitately. On arrival home with his prisoner, Mr. Kempthead sent to the nearest coast-guard station for assistance, and delivered the prisoner into their charge, by whom he was conveyed to Portsmouth gaol, where he was recognised by the governor as an old hand, whose last name was Henry Thompson, and who had recently been discharged from penal servitude.

LANCASHIRE OPERATIVES AND THE AMERICAN WAR.—A "mediation" meeting was held at Blackburn on Saturday last, resulting in the adoption of a resolution contrary to the intention for which the meeting was called. The original resolution called upon the Government to "use its influence in putting an end to the prosecution of the war in America," and intimated that the war would be carried beyond the "limits of endurance" unless one or both of the great European Powers endeavoured "to establish peace between the contending parties." The amendment proposed that the Government should use its influence for the "settlement of the American difficulty, by restoring the confidence of the Southern planters in the policy of President Lincoln." This amendment was carried, and the meeting afterwards adopted a "non-confidence" resolution with reference to the mediatorial exertions of Mr. J. T. Hopwood, M.P. It was Mr. Hopwood who proposed to the House of Commons a resolution in favour of mediation.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

THE PRIZE-AWARDING.

The commissioners and their staff are working hard to make the prize-awarding festival of the 11th of July as attractive as possible, and they have invited the chief Royal military bands from France, Belgium, Holland, Austria, Prussia, and Italy. The British military bands will be those of the Horse Guards, the 2nd Life Guards, the Royal Artillery (two bands), the Royal Engineers, the Grenadier Guards, the Coldstream Guards, the Scots Fusiliers, the Royal Marines, and the Volunteer Engineers. If the Emperor of Austria's band should fortunately accept this invitation the public will have a real musical treat, as no such body of performers on brass instruments exists in the world.

We gave the official programme of the ceremony in our Number for June 28, and since that date many details have been filled in by the commissioners, although the main features of the ceremonial are not altered.

The entrances to the buildings and Horticultural Gardens will be open from 10 till 12.30. The admission will be by both kind of season tickets, and also by tickets which, if obtained before the 8th of July, will be 5s. each. If they are obtained on or after the 8th of July, they will be 7s. 6d. It is important for the public to bear this in mind. Payment at the doors on the 11th inst. will be 10s.

THE LOST-PROPERTY OFFICE.

A most heterogeneous collection of articles is to be seen arranged in the office of Superintendent Durkin, the head of the police department. This office joins the court of precious metals, and we would advise all persons who have lost property of any description during their visits to the exhibition to examine this collection, and we think we may venture to say that in nineteen cases out of twenty the missing property will there be found. All the articles which are picked up by the policemen are duly ticketed with the date and the locality in which they were found, and, even to the most minute and trifling articles, they are all duly registered. The collection comprises an immense variety of articles. Parasols and walking-sticks are, however, the most numerous. There are several bundles of them hanging round the sides of the office. Leather bags and chain reticules are by no means scarce; and among the former may be seen one which some provident person had filled beforehand with small loaves of bread, ham and cheese, and a bottle of spirits. Purses and portemonnes are very numerous, some of them empty, and others containing considerable sums in cash. Of brooches there are a goodly collection, some few rings, and a necklace or two. One very useful article, which bears abundant evidence of the ingenuity and industry of its fair owner, is a description of chatelaine, or what might be called a minuscule in parvo, and which, if it had been exhibited in one of the classes, would have stood a fair chance of obtaining a prize. Attached to a waistband is a small folding leather case, provided with a neat wrapper, and in which are papers of needles, scissors, and a whole array of implements for plain or fancy needlework. Then there is a case for a knife, another for a pencil, and a bag for indiarubber; while every necessary for reading or writing, sewing or drawing, has been duly arranged and provided for. The loss is no doubt a source of considerable annoyance to the owner, and from this description she may in all probability learn with pleasure that this most useful lady's companion is safe and recoverable. Articles of wearing apparel, although not numerous, have still several representatives at this lost-property office, as, among other things, are a lady's bonnet, a pair of stays, a crinoline, a nightdress, a nightcap, and a flannel petticoat.

A TELEGRAM FROM ROME announces the departure of the ex-Queen of Naples for Marseilles on board a Spanish vessel of war.

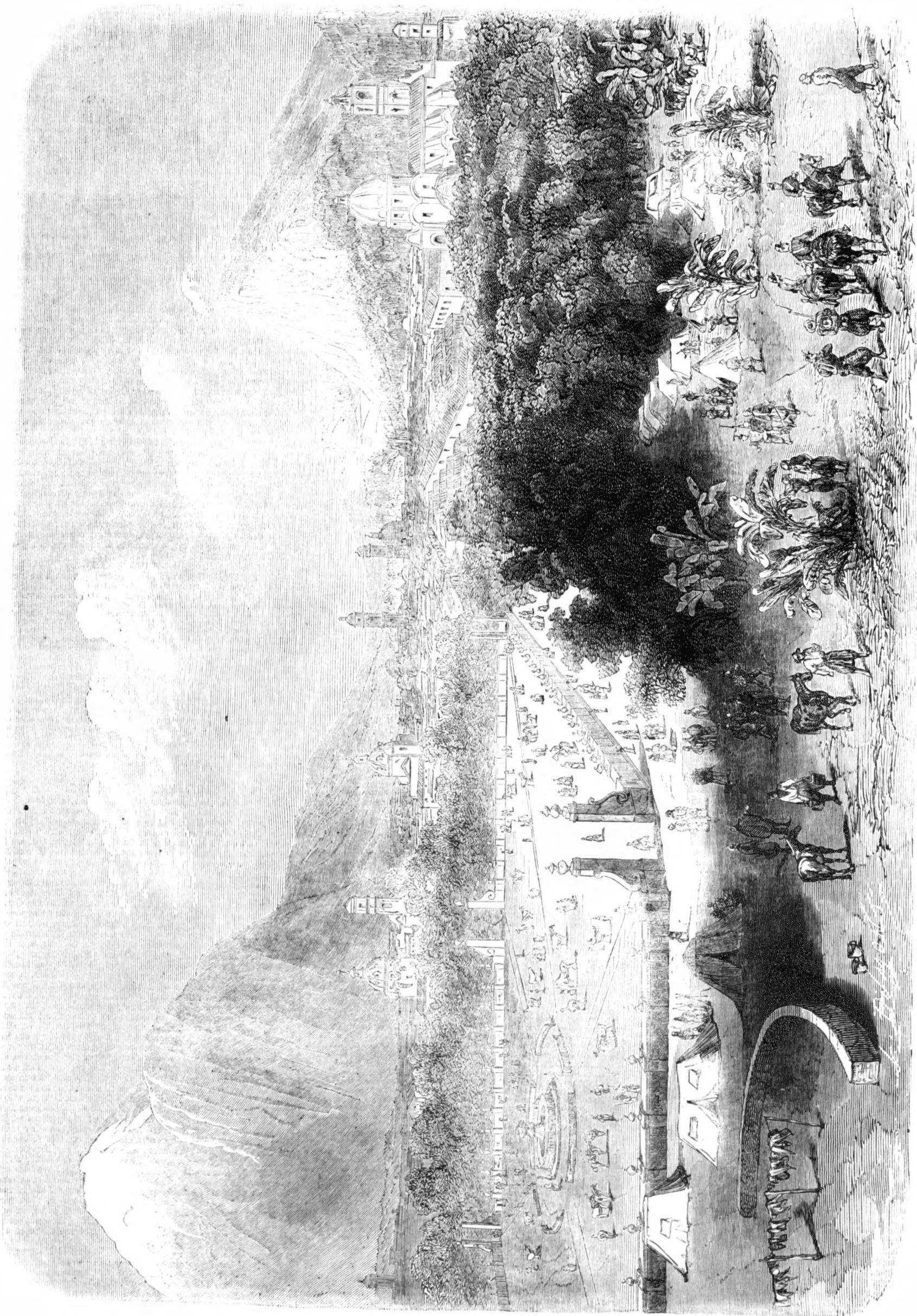
AFFAIRS OF SERVIA.—The Paris papers state that an arrangement has been entered into by virtue of which the Ambassadors of the great Powers are to assemble in conference at Constantinople during the coming month, in order to deliberate on the affairs of Servia and to come to some arrangement which might be recommended for the adoption of the Porte. The present condition of Servia is certainly altogether abnormal, Belgrade being occupied in a manner which must render continual disputes and collisions all but inevitable.

THE STEAMER ALLIANCE.—Such is the name of a steam-vessel built on the Clyde on the twin principle, and taken round to the Mersey a few days ago. The vessel possesses several peculiarities, the most striking of which is the circumstance that she is built like two boats, with a canal or truck-like space between them, in which the propelling paddle-wheel works entirely out of sight. This construction has enabled the builder to give her comparatively a very large width of deck, which he has formed into a wide and spacious saloon. This, being above the level of the machinery, and completely covered in with glass, affords passengers ample opportunities of obtaining views without regard to the vicissitudes of weather. Above the saloon she has also an ample deck, and in all respects appears well suited for the conveyance of pleasure parties on river excursions.

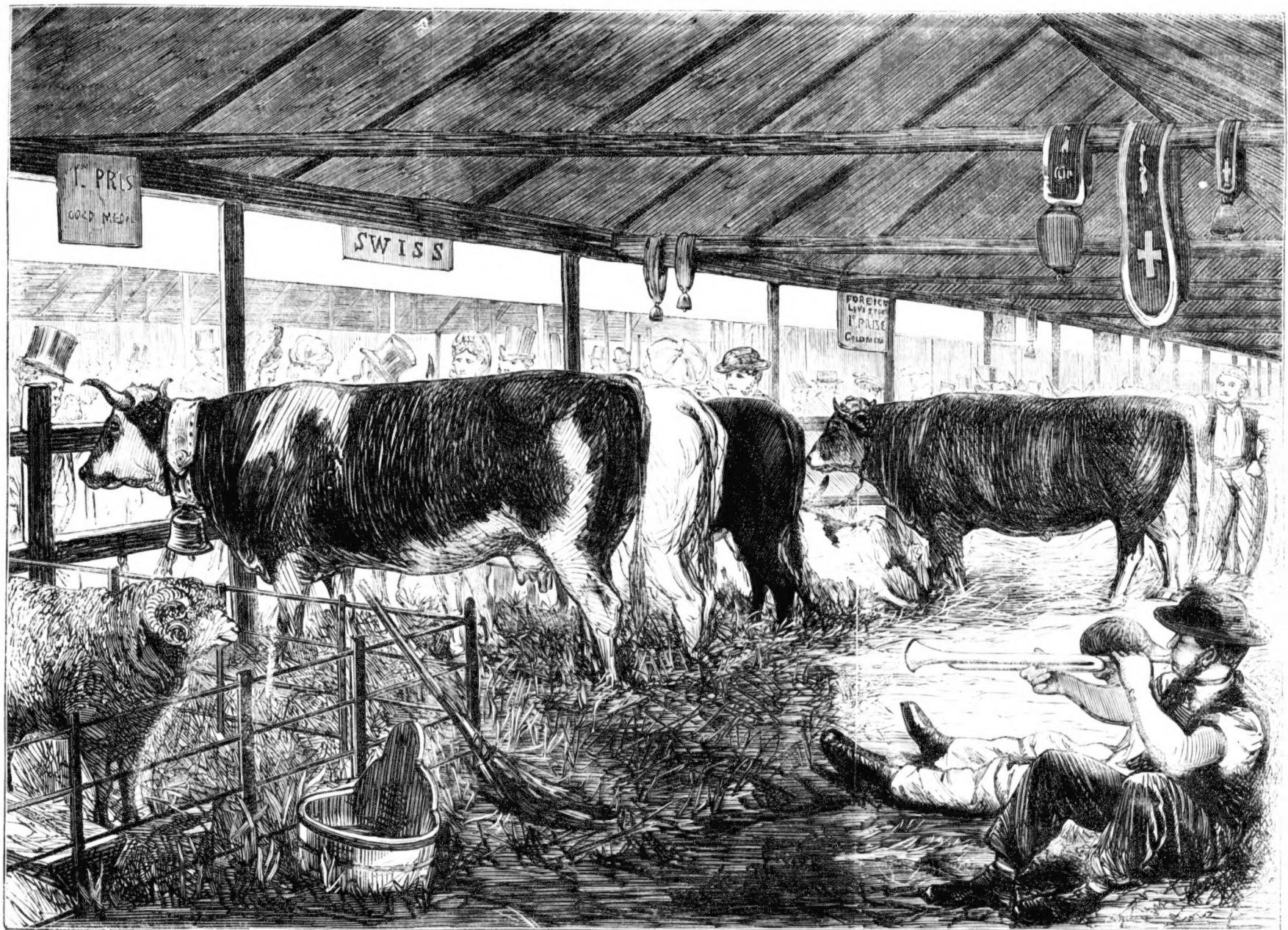
THE FRENCH IN MEXICO.

The news which has already reached us from Mexico is such as to produce grave doubts as to the speedy settlement of affairs there upon the basis insisted on by the French intervention. After their repulse by Zaragoza, near Puebla, the French forces retreated upon Orizaba; and, in accordance with an occasional practice, we this week present our readers with a general View of the City and the surrounding District as being the centre of the operations by which the Imperial troops are now said to have regained their prestige and turned the tables upon Zaragoza's army, which remained along the road from San Augustin del Palmar to Aculizingo after the French had entered. Near Aculizingo, at the base of Los Cumbres, General Tapia was posted with two cavalry corps, in order to oppose the junction of Marquez with the French force. Meanwhile, in order to avoid the main body of Zaragoza's army, Marquez left the main road and entered the defiles of the mountains between Tehuacan and the Cumbres with 2000 men, who had to traverse paths only wide enough to admit one horseman at a time. On the 18th he arrived at Barranca Seca, a gorge surrounded by inaccessible mountains, and about six leagues from Orizaba, towards which it has a narrow opening. This opening is divided by a mamelon commanding the whole position. At the bottom of the gorge, exactly facing the opening, the mountains are separated by a road, affording passage for only a single file of horsemen. Through this narrow and difficult path Marquez's forces debouched. On learning this movement General Tapia prepared to meet the enemy with his two corps of cavalry. He found the army of Marquez drawn up at the bottom of the gorge, and entered the defiles in order to prevent it from escaping. The conflict commenced at about nine in the morning, but at first was confined to skirmishing. General Tapia sent for reinforcements to General Negreti, who was at Aculizingo, and Marquez, on his side, dispatched couriers to Orizaba, in order to inform the French of his perilous position. About half-past four a force of 1100 infantry, sent by General Negreti, arrived at the scene of action. Part of this force entered the gorge and engaged in combat with the cavalry of Marquez. The remainder guarded the passes. The combat was deadly, and the reactionary forces would, without the least doubt, have been cut to pieces at the bottom of the gorge, when at about five o'clock 2000 French troops suddenly made their appearance. Immediately on receipt of Marquez's message a body of Zouaves, Chasseurs de Vincennes, and the 9th Regiment of the Line, had been set in motion to reinforce him, and arrived at the critical moment, occupied the outlets of the gorge, and took possession of the mamelon which commanded the whole position.

Thus all the Mexican forces, both of Tapia and Marquez, found themselves shut up within the gorge. A frightful carnage ensued. Neither party had artillery. The battle was fought hand to hand for the space of two full hours, until night. Towards the close of the conflict the French, owing to the darkness, were unable to distinguish the Mexicans, and charged both the soldiers of General Tapia and those of Marquez. At length night terminated the conflict, the French withdrawing to Orizaba, accompanied by Marquez and his cavalry, and General Tapia's troops returned to the position which they occupied before the battle. The Mexicans suffered immense losses, estimated, indeed, at 50 per cent of their number. Marquez, it is said, lost 600 men. As for the French, their loss must have been equally severe although the number is not known.



THE CITY OF ORIZABA, MEXICO, WITH PART OF THE FRENCH CAMP SHOWN IN THE FOREGROUND.



THE GREAT SHOW OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN BATTERSEA PARK.—THE SWISS CATTLE SHED.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW.

The Battersea meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society is considered to be a complete success. So far as the quality of the show is concerned nothing was left to be desired. The chronicles of the society have no records of such a varied congregation of animals

domesticated by man for his own use. It is fairly astonishing to think of two miles of shedding devoted to these classes. Men of considerable experience in these meetings seemed to be taken by surprise, for whichever way the eye was turned so much was seen of what was excellent and novel. From the lordly shorthorn to the tiny Bréton—from

the noble Cotswold to the crop-eared sheep of China—from the obese, palpitating pig to the grunter of tender years—from the sleek, graceful thoroughbred to the ponderous drayhorse and the Exmore pony—every class was full of attractive forms and extraordinary merit.

This was not a fat stock exhibition : there was nothing to disgust,



THE HORSE RING.

for the animals were shown in as near their natural condition as is possible.

The public judging formed the chief excitement throughout the meeting; not concentrated, however, in any one spot, for groups of eager and interested spectators collected about the several parties of umpires—some in the alleys between the cattle-booths, some among the interminable pens of sheep, and others within the ring where the horses passed their “examination for honours.” In one quarter you were just in time to see a Derby winner displaying his mettle; or a hunter, full of fire and power, curveting and showing his points before a crowd of critics; a pony prancing off in high feather with the red prize ticket; a string of comely Suffolk fillies pacing round the ring; or a row of colossal earthorses standing like a bulwark, with their massive limbs and ponderous proportions united with symmetry and grace. Elsewhere, you came upon a cluster of agriculturists watching a knot of judges in their final adjudication of a gold medal, and great were the congratulations for the lucky breeder whose prize animal had best sustained the crucial ordeal, and been led off to its particular stall in triumph.

THE HORSES.

The show of 286 horses was a splendid sight. Of twelve “thoroughbred stud horses best calculated to improve and perpetuate the breed of the sound and stony thoroughbred horse for general stud purposes,” Mr. Phillips’ Ellington, winner of the Derby in 1856 and son of the Flying Dutchman, bears away the £100 prize; the more substantial second-prize horse being Mr. Johnstone’s Marquette, while Mr. Hussey has gained a “high commendation” with the old favourite Sir John Barleycorn. There were thirty-one hunting stallions, brood mares, and geldings, several of extraordinary merit. Carriage horses and roadsters were not numerous, but comprised some of remarkably good build and fine action. The ponies, no fewer than sixty in number, were a show to themselves, including many real beauties, gathering about them a continual throng of admirers, and the Prince of Wales at once bought one for 200 guineas. There was one specimen of the “Percheronne” draught-horse of France.

The agricultural horses made a good show. The chestnut Suffolks numbered seventy-two; Mr. Biddell’s prize stallion being of immense substance, wonderfully thick and fat, with a most beautiful head, and legs clean of hair and not too slender for the muscular colossus they have to support. Mr. Crisp’s twelve-year-old is most remarkable for its age, and his second prize two-year-old is scarcely to be placed behind Mr. Giles’ capital winner in the same class. The classes of other agricultural horses and of drayhorses were remarkably good; but a grand and unique feature was the magnificent show of Clydesdales, twenty-seven in number, contributed by members of the Highland Society. So valuable is this breed that Mr. Stirling has refused 400 guineas for his prize Clydesdale mare.

THE CATTLE.

There were no less than 250 shorthorns—a marvellous show, better, as a whole, than we have ever seen before, though distinguished by only a few of those matchless animals which now and then astonish the grazing world. The four classes of bulls and bull calves were all “commended” at a stroke—an honour that has never before fallen to the lot of any breed. The gold medal in the male classes was carried off by Mr. Jonas Webb’s most wonderful bull calf, ten months and a half old, an unprecedented triumph for so young a prodigy.

In the class of bulls over three years old, in which appears one of Mr. Thorne’s American “Oxfords,” exhibited by the Duke of Devonshire, were several grand animals.

In the female classes, profusely rewarded with commendations, we have Mr. Booth’s Queen of the Ocean winning the gold medal, and his yearling heifer gaining a first prize while Lady Pigot, Lord Feversham, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Atherton, and Mr. Charles Howard have come up with some beautiful stock. Colonel Towneley’s second-prize and “commended” yearling heifers were splendid specimens of the renowned “Butterfly” herd. The heifer calves were truly wonderful for precocity, form, and flesh, in the beauty of their tender age.

The Herefords were surprisingly fine, and mustered ninety-seven entries. Colonel Hood’s prize bull and prize yearling heifer are from the Royal farms. Mr. Hill took the gold medal for the best male, and Mr. Coate the gold medal for the best female.

The Devons, always pretty, were here in strong force, numbering sixty-six, and Mr. Davey, Mr. Farthing, and Colonel Hood were successful competitors, with most perfect animals. The ruddy little calves, important in their rugs, bridles, and separate standings, formed a most delightful picture. The society has never before had so good a show of red Sussex cattle. The longhorns showed largely and uncommonly well; the twenty-seven Norfolk and Suffolk bulls did great credit to those high-standing live-stock counties, and Mr. Sewell Read had collected an excellent show of South Wales cows and heifers. The rare little Kerry milkers supported the dairy fame of the Emerald Isle; and in the dun and white Jersey, and yellow, red, and white Guernsey, cattle (a very large and beautiful show) we had examples of the full udders and swelling milk-veins which are so frequently deficient in our meat-making English breeds.

Scotland was grandly represented by such a collection of black-polled Aberdeen, Angus, Galloways, shaggy, snuff-coloured, fleetly-horned Highlanders, and beautiful milk Ayrshires—altogether numbering 115—as the south has never before had the privilege of beholding.

The French sent fifty-two, including a fine and very valuable bull, and a very beautiful cow of the white Charolaise breed; a dun and black Garonne bull; a good show of the red-brown and black brindled Norman cattle; two Pyrenean bulls—beautiful creatures, with coats of the colour of ripe red wheat: a cream-coloured Pénibière, two Flemish, and a large lot of the little black and white Bretons. There were also six good Dutch cows; but the striking feature of this part of the yard was the grand show of Swiss dairy cattle, no less than fifty in number. These dun-coloured or black and white cows, incessantly but pleasantly pealing changes on the handsome bellies which depend by tasteful bolts from their necks, heralded their presence to all parts of the show-yard; and not the least entertaining part of the spectacle was to see the herdsmen, in blue blouses and varied costumes, feeding and tending the foreign cattle, their tawny bulls, or droll little calves, in form and colour so novel in the British Isles.

A favourite place of resort about midday was the stalls where these Fribourg cattle were displayed. Here, at the hour of dinner, the Swiss herdsmen form themselves into a group, either standing or seated in a circle on the ground, and amused themselves and the company by singing the “Ranz des Vaches” and other melodies, in which praise of fatherland was of course not forgotten. The music was characteristic, the tinkling of the bells hung round the necks of the kine, a singularly striking effect was produced, recalling forcibly to the mind of the travelled listener many a wild and picturesque scene which he may have witnessed in the valleys, by the lakes, and on the mountain sides of Switzerland. The entertainment was regarded with especial favour by the ladies, and the performers were rewarded for their skill by sundry small presents thrust surreptitiously into their hands.

THE SHEEP.

As respects the British sheep classes, the Leicesters did not present so good a feature in the show as they have been wont to do. A few men appeared to have it all their own way, but neither Mr. Sanday nor Mr. Cresswell came up to the mark.

The Lincoln sheep were this year, for the first time, recognised as a pure breed. The show was good, as far as quality went.

The great Cotswolds made a most impressive appearance. Their size obtained much consideration for them.

The Romney Marsh sheep shown were better than usual, but were too narrow-chested to give one the idea of being the hardy sheep they are represented to be. The shortwoollen classes, not quite in the ascendant just now, wait for a turn in fashion. From Ingatestone to short-wool, from shropshire to Ingatestone, such have been the changes during the past forty years of a demand which depends very much upon female whim. The classes are, however, thoroughly well sustained,

The Shropshire sheep and Hampshire and Oxford Downs make way, and are all contributing to the supply of mutton. The Scotch sheep exhibited are excellent; full of character and constitution, but we think in some places they might find benefit from stealing a little of the Exmoor blood. The merinos were somewhat of a puzzle to us; where mutton and wool are required we fancy we could turn to three or four of our breeds that would be vastly more productive. Visitors seemed astonished at the fine show of French merinos, with their immense curling horns, Roman noses, wearing shaggy mats of wool on their heads, and completely gloved in wool down to their very hoofs, while some were extravagant for loose folds and frills of skin, unsightly enough in the eyes of English graziers, but tolerated for the sake of the superlatively fine wool that only a merino can give. The Spanish merinos from Hanover, and the Saxony merinos, were not equal to those improved by the French breeder. Everybody was amazed with the strange, long-necked, crop-eared Chinese sheep, exhibited by the Acclimatisation Society.

THE SWINE.

As for the collection of swine, the society never before could boast such a grand show. No matter which of the 191 pens was inspected, great merit was sure to appear; and it was a source of wonderfully-varied interest to compare the virtues of old dawger sows, huge baconian boars, small delicate porkers, all flesh and fat, with the slenderest necessary bone; or sleek, rich little grunters, marvellously precious in their alimentive faculty.

The show closed on Wednesday, and has been visited since the opening by many thousands of interested sightseers.

STEAM CULTURE AT FARNINGHAM.

The exhibition of various methods of steam cultivation at Farningham is a striking feature of the metropolitan proceedings of the Royal Agricultural Society. The prizes of last year brought out many competitors at Leeds and several new machines. This year the advances are as great, although the competitors are somewhat fewer. The locomotive rotary system of inverting the soil, as shown by Romaine, seems to have gone to the wall, and the system of dragging implements at the tail of locomotive engines has followed in its wake. The only system represented at Farningham is that known as traction by wire rope, which may be subdivided into two classes, one in which the engine travels along the headland, the other in which the engine and windlass are stationary. They both possess their merits and their advocates. Mr. John Fowler, of Leeds, is the inventor of the first, and represents it, together with Messrs. Coleman, of Chelmsford: of the second many claim to be the inventors. On so delicate a point, therefore, for the sake of avoiding offence, it will be best simply to say it is represented by Mr. W. Fowler; Mr. Wm. Smith, of Woolston; Messrs. J. and F. Howard, of Bedford; Messrs. Brown and May, of Devizes; Messrs. Tasker, of Andover; and a Mr. Evenenden, not an exhibitor, but allowed by the society to show a method he has adopted of pulling two Kentish turn-wrest ploughs by means of a steam-engine of 8-horse power, at nearly sooth pressure, with the aid of two men to each plough and four men and a boy in other parts of the field.

The superiority of steam to horse tillage was decided some three or four years since; but the machine with which Mr. Fowler won this triumph was mainly abandoned—at least it appeared at Leeds in a very different and improved form, and there gained its owner the chief portion of a large prize offered by the society. The large ploughing apparatus then exhibited is the same which is to be found at Farningham. The engine, with windlass or clip-drum slung beneath the boiler, propels itself along the headland on one side of a field, and the anchorage performs the same feat along the other. Between these two opposite points is stretched a wire rope, which proceeds from the plough round the sheave beneath the engine-boiler to the anchorage-sheave, when it makes a half-turn before it finds the plough again. The plough is pulled by this rope backwards and forwards between the anchorage and engine, which last spontaneously shifts forward upon the headland as fresh land is wanted. The clip-drum beneath the boiler, and actuated by the engine, is peculiar in its construction. The groove in which the rope runs is formed of pairs of knuckle-joints or nipping-pieces, which grasp the rope as it impinges upon them, and free it as it runs the straight line on the other side. Thus prevented from slipping, the rope can exercise sufficient power upon the implement to pull it through any difficulty. The implement consists of two opposing sets of four ploughs each, balanced upon a pair of light carriage wheels; while one set is working the other rides in the air. With respect to Mr. Coleman’s, which was at work some distance from Fowler’s, it may be remarked that the engine and anchorage are both formed to advance upon opposing headlands, the implements passing backwards and forwards between them. These implements are two five-tined cultivators, guided by one man each. The winding apparatus consists of two drums placed beneath the boiler, revolving on a horizontal axis. The anchorage requires to be moved by a boy. The price of the 8-horse engine, apparatus, and two cultivators, is £500. Messrs. Howard’s apparatus consists of a 10-horse double-cylinder self-propelling (or ordinary portable) engine, a two-wheeled windlass, 1100 yards of steel wire rope, a double-action cultivator, with snatch-blocks, anchors, and rope-porters; the price, if without the engine, is £200. At Leeds the main objection to the apparatus there worked was caused by the great amount of power absorbed by the break acting on the slack-rope-drum of the windlass in its endeavour to keep that rope from bellying between the porters. This break is replaced by a simple frictional break, and the eye is directed to a new snatch-block, where the difficulty is sought to be overcome. This consists of three sheaves, two of iron, of the usual size; and between, forming a triangle with them, is what may be termed a floating solid sheave, with soft iron circumference, so forged as to enter the grooved periphery of its larger neighbour, and to bite the rope there. This floating sheave is carried on a radial arm, which carries on the side of the wooden frame farthest from the windlass, ascends between the two sheaves, and allows its charge two or three inches play on either side. This triangular group is so fixed directly in front of the windlass that the hauling-rope inevitably forces the floating wheel to bite the slack rope in the grooves of the opposing sheave. The break may now be said to be transferred from the windlass to the rope, but with this advantage, that the floating wheel in revolving exercises a con-training force upon the slack rope, and diminishes the force otherwise required to haul the implement through its work, and to pull out the slack rope at the same time. The cultivator is unaltered save by the addition of a cutting-share and movable horn for breaking the top crust more effectively. The Leeds turnover-plough is quite abandoned, and a very capital one is substituted which does not leave much to be desired on the part of the employers of this system. It consists of a frame riding upon three wheels, one in the furrow bottom, two on the land used for steerage, two sets of ploughs on two lever-frames hinged at the forward end of the travelling-frame. A shaft, supported by side standards of the frame, carries eccentrics set at opposite diameters, and by chains from these to the lever-frame the ploughs are raised or lowered. The peculiarity is that though the ploughs balance at half elevation, when one set is in the ground, the other set bears with about only half its weight, tending to lift the first set out of the land. The remainder of the weight tends to tilt the wheel-frame forward. This is a great advance, and is likely to suit those who advocate the stationary system. Mr. Fowler, seeing the advantage that would result from accommodating his machinery to the eight and ten horse portable engines, of which there are so many in the country, has invented a windlass which is quite independent of the engine. This runs first along the headland, and, actuated by the engine, pulls the engine after it at the necessary rate, the anchorage at the other side of the field keeping the same pace. This windlass is supported upon six cutting-discs, which withstand the lateral strain. It consists of a clip-drum, and is fitted with a deep V-shaped rigger, which receives motion from the engine by means of a singularly-constructed iron-leather rope, which presses tightly into the groove, and presents a great frictional contact. This arrangement is necessitated by reason of the fact that the engine and windlass must uneven land could never preserve that nice relative position so necessary to the

action of the common belt. The anchorage and windlass in this case are both placed forward, and wind themselves up.

Mr. Smith’s tackle consists of a 10-horse engine, the old simple windlass, 1100 yards of steel rope, rope-porters, and Nos. 2 and 3 cultivators, price £207. Tasker and Sons’ differed somewhat in the apparatus exhibited from that just mentioned. The mode of working is the same, but the windlass is so constructed that the engine may be kept running. This is certainly a convenience, only to be properly estimated by those acquainted with the working of steam-ploughs. Mr. Hayes, of Stoney Stratford, gained a silver medal at Leeds for a windlass which presents the same feature, but his machine was not on the ground. The contrivance is beautifully simple and compact. The drums, mounted upon a pair of wheels, revolve on the same axle, the driving-pulley is placed between them, receiving the power direct from the engine and communicating it to the drums through cog-wheels contained within themselves. The price of this apparatus, with Smith’s scarier, is £210. Messrs. Brown and May’s is also a modification of Mr. Smith’s system, in many respects lightened and improved. The apparatus, without the engine, consists of a simplified windlass, 1100 yards of steel rope, and a cultivator, price £200.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 192.

SCOTCH.

This difference between the character of the Scotch and that of the Irish members of Parliament has often been noticed in these columns; but it was never more forcibly illustrated than it has been of late in the House of Commons. At a morning sitting last week the Scotch Police Bill got into Committee. This bill must be a very important one, for it remodels the entire police system of Scotland, and contains nearly five hundred clauses; but in three hours and a half this enormous bill ran through Committee and was reported to the House. Some of the clauses were opposed, and on these discussion arose, but there was no heat, no excitement; and ultimately, concession having been made or opposition withdrawn, the bill passed. In fact, the bill had been discussed elsewhere—at private meetings of the Scotch members—as the way of the Scotch members is, and in the main settled. When this formidable bill appeared it was thought that, as the Session was far advanced, it would be impossible for the Lord Advocate to get it through Parliament this year. Indeed, it was reported that he did not mean to try. He would merely get the bill printed and circulated amongst the members, and proceed with it next Session. Such was the rumour a few days after the bill appeared in print. The measure, however, has passed the Committee; and, in all probability, in a few days will be law. Such is the way in which the Scotch manage their business. But let it not be supposed that there is anything like sluggish indifference, or indolence, or timidity in all this. Such a supposition would be a great mistake. The Scotch are neither sluggish nor indifferent. When occasion arises they can be as firm and pugnacious as the Irish, and get as excited. On their Fishery Bill they were all in a flame, and so stern a front did they show to the educational measure of the Lord Advocate that he was obliged to withdraw it. But they are reasonable, have great self-command, are never factious, and do not love fighting for fighting’s sake, as their Irish neighbours evidently do. This is a picture of the Scotch way of doing business.

IRISH.

Now let us look at the mode in which the Irish do theirs; and, as an example, take the conduct of the Hibernians on the Irish Poor-law Bill. This bill is about one-eighth the size of the Scotch Police Bill, and probably not a whit more important. But, oh! what rows, what pugnacious opposition, what bitterness of strife, rising at times to widest-read conflagration! What pæantries has this measure called forth! One whole night, from five to twelve, was spent upon the first clause, and mainly upon two or three words of that clause. Indeed this clause is not settled yet; for such was the confusion, and strife, and wrangling, that Sir Robert Peel had to retreat from his position for a time and postpone the further consideration of this clause till all the others were passed. These clauses, after two more sittings were spent over them, have, we believe, been disposed of. They were finished on Friday morning week; but the first clause is still unsettled, and is likely to remain so for some time to come. Indeed, it is still all uncertain whether Sir Robert will, in the face of such an opposition, be able to carry his bill. If he could get a division the business would at once be settled, for the English members would then come to his aid and beat the Irish by a large majority. But a division is not the policy of his enemies. In a division they know they would be defeated. They hope to win by delay, or so to worry and badger and annoy Sir Robert that he shall at length throw up the measure in disgust; and yet the measure, we are told, is a good measure. Indeed, by all the landed proprietors we believe it is acknowledged to be a fair and honest bill, and one that will, if it passes, prove of great benefit to Ireland. But it is the nature of the Irish never to receive even a blessing without quarrelling over it. Your Irishman, remember, is “never at peace but when he is at war.” He loves a scrimmage. If there be no cause of quarrel he will make one. If he has not a wrong to fight against he will wrangle over a right. And then, again, a deadly enmity to the Government, and the Secretary especially, inspires a large portion of the Irish members just now. This is very observable in all the moves of the Irish party. It is a Government measure; therefore we will oppose it. Right or wrong, it must be opposed if it come from the Government. This, then, is a picture of the Irishmen as legislators. How different from that of the Scotch!—as different as unreason is from reason;—as different as sober, calm patriotism is to wild, irrational faction.

A MARE’S NEST.

As soon as the House opened on Friday week it became evident that there was something more than common in the wind; or else why such a crowd of members down at so early an hour? On the paper there was nothing attractive. “Reserve Captains in the Navy” is an old subject which we have often had before, and certainly would not draw this unwonted crowd. “Buxton on our Forces in India” was more likely to empty the House than to fill it. In short, such was the dreary aspect of the paper that a count-out at the dinner hour seemed more than possible. Why, then, this crowd? and why this anxiety to get places? We confess that for a time we were nonplussed. But soon the secret oozed out. A case of privilege was to come on, involving a personal attack, and hence the rapid filling of the House as soon as the doors were opened. Nothing in the world fills the House so much as these personal cases. We vote away millions often when there are not thirty members on the benches. Measures which, like the Land Transfer Bill, revolutionise the whole system of conveyancing, are discussed by some dozen lawyers. But let it be whispered in the clubs that A is about to make a personal attack upon B, or B upon A, and every member of Parliament is on the qui vive, and as soon as the House opens it is as full as it is when a great party division is expected.

LORD R. MONTAGU.

The assailant on this occasion was Lord Robert Montagu. The assailed was Mr. William Cowper, the Chief Commissioner of Works, a gentleman whom of late it has become rather the fashion to bulldog. The House had sat in the morning that day, had suspended its sitting at four, and had resumed at six; and at half-past six Lord Robert Montagu rose to deliver himself of his burden. Usually, his Lordship sits on the second bench from the floor below the gangway, on the Opposition side of the House; but on this occasion—this important occasion, when he was about to impeach the conduct of a Minister of the Crown—he came down and took his place upon the floor. His Lordship began with uncommon solemnity, and, to put himself in order, announced at once that he should finish his speech with a motion for adjournment. Now, to us this was all a mystery, for having just arrived, we had not heard a word of the matter. What could it all mean? Who is the guilty person, and what has he done? However, Lord Robert Montagu soon unrolled his scroll, and this was the case which he made out:—there is a scheme before the House, as our readers know, for embanking the Thanes from Westminster-bridge to Blackfriars. This scheme was referred to a Select Committee of which Mr. W. Cowper was

the chairman. This scheme was opposed by the Duke of Buccleuch, because the said embankment was to be carried in front of the splendid palace of his which he is now building, and has nearly finished, in Whitehall-place, and by sundry other noblemen and gentlemen, amongst others Mr. Horsman, who also reside in these gardens. Well, comment with the *Times* newspaper, which supports the scheme in its entirety, there is a certain gentleman well known in political circles and to our readers, as we have more than once described him in these columns. He is that gigantic man, standing some seven feet high, who is frequently seen in the lobby and under the gallery, and in Rotten-row. His name is Higgins, but he is better known as Jacob Oannum, his *nom de plume*. Now, Mr. Cowper is opposed to the innovations in his scheme proposed by the Duke of Buccleuch and others, and so is Mr. Higgins. And these two meeting one day, Cowper says to Higgins, "Have you noticed such and such parts of the evidence given before the Committee?" "No," replied Mr. Higgins, "I was not there when it was given." "Well," replied Mr. C., "I will send you some notes thereon." "Do," replied Jacob. And Mr. Cowper did this. But unfortunately this letter of Mr. Cowper went to the wrong Mr. Higgins—not to the tall Mr. Higgins of the *Times*, but to Mr. W. F. Higgins, son-in-law of the Lord Chancellor—and this Mr. Higgins—he that got the letter—read it, took a copy of its contents, it was said, and then sent it back to Mr. Cowper. These contents, somehow or other, got into the hands of Lord Robert Montagu, and upon these notes so obtained he founded his charge against Mr. Cowper. And this was the charge—to wit, that in sending to Mr. Higgins extracts from the evidence given before a Committee of the House Mr. Cowper had been guilty of a breach of privilege, or at all events of a grave indecorum deserving censure. This was the charge, and for a time there was no little triumphing amongst the Conservative backers of the noble Lord, who, of course, were delighted enough at the opportunity of damaging so prominent a person in her Majesty's Government as the Chief Commissioner and the stepson of Lord Palmerston.

MR. W. COWPER.

Now, if Mr. William Cowper were a strong-minded man he would soon have extinguished this miserable charge, turned the tables upon his opponents, carried the war into the enemy's camp, and smitten his foes hip and thigh. But Mr. Cowper is not a strong man. His mental vision is none of the clearest; he sees facts hazily, finds a difficulty in grasping them, and when he does catch a fact never by any chance uses it effectively. His speech in reply to Lord Robert was wrong-timed, misty, and ineffective. Let us imagine that he had spoken vigorously, boldly, and in words something like these:—"Sir—I wrote a letter to Mr. Higgins; by some mistake this letter got into the hands of the wrong Mr. Higgins. This gentleman opened it, read it, took notes of its contents, and gave them to a friend, who handed them to the noble Lord. Now, I venture to say that in doing this Mr. Higgins—Mr. W. F. Higgins, I mean, not Mr. Higgins of the *Times*—did a very questionable thing, a thing not common amongst gentlemen, and that the noble Lord who has consented to use the contents of this letter thus surreptitiously obtained has made himself a *particeps criminis*. In short, Mr. W. F. Higgins stole the contents of my letter, and the noble Lord has shared the booty. But, however, this letter of mine, how dirty so ever the course by which it got here, is actually before the House, and what have I to say to that? Well, I boldly say, that I had clearly a right to pen this letter; for, let the House consider, this was not a private but a public Committee, open to all the world. The committee-room was crowded with strangers. The reporters were there. The proceedings from day to day were published in the morning papers; and to say that I had no right to take notes and send them to a friend is simply to talk nonsense." This is the style in which Mr. Cowper should have addressed the House that night; and, if he had assumed this bold attitude, he would have carried the House with him, routed his foes, and made Lord Robert and his backer, Mr. Horsman, look remarkably small. But the Chief Commissioner did not take this position. He spoke hesitatingly, apologetically—half hinted that he might have been wrong. In short, he had a capital case, but, by his mauldin, hesitating, hazy speech, he spoiled it, and gave a partial and temporary success to his foes. This is, then, how the case stood on Friday night—Lord Robert had not achieved a triumph; Mr. Cowper had, certainly, not gained a verdict. It was a case of non-proven, and that is all that could be said.

THE CASE IS ALTERED.

But on Monday the aspect of things had changed—the worse for Lord Robert and the better for Mr. Cowper, for between Friday and Monday night a good deal of corresponding had been going on. In the *Times* there had appeared a capital letter from Mr. M. Higgins—Higgins the tall—in which he laid about him in his usual style, defending Mr. Cowper, decorticating (to use his own phrase) Lord Robert and Mr. Horsman, and completely exploding the ridiculous charge: in short, he burst the bubble. Letters of explanation and denial had also passed between Lord Robert and the other Mr. Higgins—he who, it was said, had misappropriated the letter; and Lord Robert, when he again rose to address the House, found himself in the position of a defendant and not in that of a plaintiff, and had to speak humbly, deprecatingly, with bated breath, and in bondsman's key. Poor Lord Robert! It was impossible not to pity him, his position was so mortifying. On Friday he was the spokesman for a party, and Horsman, and Shelley, and a hundred others were all ready to back him up; but now he was alone, deserted in his hour of need. Indeed, the very men who cheered him on before were ready now to assail him. Horsman flatly contradicted him, professed to be "azanned" at his statements, and, when the noble Lord claimed Mr. Horsman as his authority for something which he had said on Friday, the member for Strand, interrupting the noble Lord, declared that the claim was "ridiculous." Nor did the noble Lord mend his position by falling back upon Colonel Knox, another of his authorities, for the gallant Colonel also backed out, and would by no means "indorse the statements of the noble Lord."

PAM TO THE RESCUE.

Meanwhile Mr. Cowper was of course in high glee, as he sat upon the Treasury bench watching how beautifully his opponents devoured one another: his face was quite radiant. Twice during the discussion he essayed to speak. But before his opportunity came he was beckoned to by Lord Palmerston, and he and his stepfather had a whispered conference for a time. What was said of course we have no means of certainly knowing. But are we far wrong in surmising that there was something like this? *Pam loquiter*: "William, my boy, you must leave this matter to me. You made a horrible mess of it on Friday. I'll polish off these gentlemen for you in a trice." But, however this might be, *mon fils* sidled back to his place, and, when the coast was clear, *Paterfamilias* rose and settled the business *suo more*. We could see at once that the noble Lord was in the right mood; we knew by the broad grin on his face that he had his joke ready. "There is nothing," he said, "in the world so calculated to lead to no result as a discussion upon what I said, you said, or he said." Roars of laughter followed this sally. "The noble Lord has found a mare's nest," he continued, and again there was an explosion, and the thing was settled. His Lordship proceeded, in a few words, to defend his stepson, but it was the joke that did the business.

SHAKESPEAREAN RELICS.—Unexpected discoveries of a very interesting character have been made in excavating the site of Shakespeare's New Place. Not only have the entire foundations of the house, as altered by Sir Hugh Clopton early in the last century, come to light, but portions of the basement of Shakespeare's own residence towards the east and south have been discovered, the latter intersecting the more recent design. It seems that Shakespeare's house extended nine feet in the present Chapel-lane, at the corner opposite the Guild Chapel, its frontage in Chapel-street being about 25 ft., taken in a small part of what was lately Dr. Rice's residence. When Sir Hugh Clopton's result New Place he diminished it a little on the north side, the adjoining houses being during a small space, in the inside of which, as was discovered by Mr. E. G. Graves, still remain distinct traces of the public end of the old New Place. We can then attain a pretty tolerable idea of the dimensions and form of the poet's old residence. More interesting still, in the opinion of many, will be Shakespeare's original well, which has been discovered, with its ancient stone quoining, at the back of the site of the house.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27.
HOUSE OF LORDS.
MR. EDWIN JAMES.

In reply to a question from Lord Chelmsford, the LORD CHANCELLOR said he had resolved to remove the name of Mr. Edwin James from the list of Queen's Counsel and to cancel his patent. The noble and learned Lord explained that he would have taken this step at an earlier period, but that he wished to afford Mr. James an opportunity, if so minded, of appealing to the Judges against the decision of the Benchers of the Inner Temple.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.
THE THAMES EMBANKMENT.

In answer to Mr. Ker Seymer, Mr. W. COWPER said he should proceed with the Committee on the Thames Embankment Bill on Monday next.

Lord R. MONTAGU complained of the bill being brought on so soon, as it had been only delivered to members that morning. He referred to the proceedings before the Select Committee on this bill, and complained that strictures had been made on the Select Committee in public journals, on information which must be imperfect, for every member of the Committee was bound not to disclose any part of the evidence, and he urged that there was a great misapprehension as to the Committee having been influenced by private feelings in deciding that the embankment should not extend beyond Whitehall-stairs. It was stated that Mr. Cowper had sent information to a Mr. Higgins, who was connected with a leading daily journal before the Committee's report was issued; and he wished to know if this was true? He asked the House to support its Committee against charges which had been brought against it.

Mr. COWPER stated, in answer to Lord Robert, that he knew but one Mr. Higgins, and that, from what he had heard of the other Mr. Higgins, he had no ambition to make his acquaintance. It was quite true that he had furnished a Mr. Higgins with a copy of the evidence taken before the Select Committee, and that, inasmuch as the evidence was published in brief from day to day in the newspapers, and as the Committee had concluded its labours, he did not see any harm in giving to Mr. Higgins or any other gentleman who felt an interest in the subject the means of obtaining correct information.

Mr. HORSMAN commented with some severity on the course which the First Commissioner of Works had adopted in reference to Mr. Higgins, and insinuated that the evidence, with the manuscript annotations of the right hon. gentleman, would not have been given to that individual unless it were intended that it should be used by him as a writer for the press.

After some further discussion, the subject dropped; but the Government promised not to proceed with the Committee on the Embankment Bill until time had been afforded the House to consider the evidence.

RESERVED CAPTAINS IN THE NAVY.

Sir J. MAY again brought under notice the case of the reserved Captains of her Majesty's Navy, and moved for a Select Committee to inquire into their case.

Lord C. PAGET repeated that the claims of the officers in question had been submitted to the legal advisers of the Crown, and that they had reported that the officers in question had no case whatever.

On a division, the motion was negatived by 108 to 92.

THE EUROPEAN ARMY IN INDIA.

Mr. BUNTON called attention to the amount of European force maintained in India, and contended that on the military expenditure the financial prosperity of the country depended.

Sir C. WOOD gave some details in reference to the European force in India, which he said, was below the proper strength, and expressed his regret that he could not give Mr. Buxton any assurance that the Government could diminish the present European contingent by a single man. The subject then dropped.

MONDAY, JUNE 30.
HOUSE OF LORDS.
THE WAR IN AMERICA.

Lord BROUGHAM called attention to the civil war raging in America. He expressly avowed his conviction that neither France nor England ought to interfere in the quarrel; but he urged the Americans to listen to the voice of calmer people than themselves and put an end to the war. In the course of his brief speech he drew a dismal picture of the state of society in America; and said if the war continued he should be bound to admit that the worst stain on the American character was not its domestic slavery.

THE GAME LAWS.—NIGHT-POACHING.

Lord BERNERS moved the second reading of his Game Law Amendment Bill, the object of which he explained to be to enable police constables between sunset and eight o'clock in the morning to take into custody, without warrant, any one whom they may suspect of having game or shares for game in their possession. The bill also gave other powers to the police.

After some discussion, the LORD CHANCELLOR recommended that the bill should be withdrawn, and another bill introduced at once containing only such clauses as were likely to meet with general approval.

This course was agreed to by Lord Berners, and the bill was withdrawn.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MEDIATION IN THE AMERICAN QUARREL.

Lord PALMERSTON, replying to Mr. Hopwood, who had asked whether the Government intended to interfere in the American War, said that any such interference would be likely to aggravate the sufferings of the people of the manufacturing districts. No doubt both her Majesty's Government and the French Government would be delighted to avail themselves of any opportunity of mediation which might appear likely to be attended with success; but at present a proposal to mediate would be ill-timed and would be sure to be rejected by both disputants.

THE THAMES EMBANKMENT.

On a motion for some papers relating to the Thames embankment Lord R. Montagu entered into a long explanation of the reasons why he had brought forward the name of Mr. Higgins on Friday night in connection with the proceedings in Committee. This explanation brought on contradictions from Mr. Horsman, Colonel Knox, and Sir W. Jolliffe; and Lord PALMERSTON summed up the whole affair by telling Lord Robert that he had found a mare's nest.

THE FORTIFICATIONS BILL was read a second time.

TUESDAY, JULY 1.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

NIGHT-POACHING.

Lord BERNERS introduced a bill relating to the game laws, in substitution of that which he withdrew on the previous night. Some objection in point of form was made to it, but it was ultimately read a first time.

THE SALMON FISHERIES (SCOTLAND) BILL, after some discussion, was read a second time.

BISHOPS IN HEATHEN COUNTRIES.

The Bishop of OXFORD withdrew the Bishops in Heathen and Mohammedan Countries Bill, and introduced another on the same subject, which was read a first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House of Commons, at a morning sitting, was engaged in Committee upon the Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill and the Drainage (Ireland) Bill.

In the evening the House was counted out at ten minutes after six o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2.
HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BALLOT.

Mr. H. BERKELEY, who occupied Mr. Disraeli's place on the Opposition side of the House, moved the second reading of the bill for taking votes by ballot. The country was on the eve of a general election, and, unless some protective measures were taken the Government would find boroughs wrested from their hands. They would then regret that they had not extended protection to the unfortunate inhabitants.

Sir G. GERY considered that the ballot, instead of being a check to bribery, would facilitate it. The suffrage was a trust as well as a duty, and he must oppose the bill.

After some further discussion the House divided, when the bill was rejected by a majority of 85—the numbers being, for the second reading, 120; against it, 21.

THURSDAY, JULY 3.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Highways Bill, after much discussion, passed through Committee. The following bills were read a third time and passed—viz., Education of Pauper Children, Unlawful Oaths (Ireland) Act Continuance, and the Discharged Prisoners Aid Bills.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE THAMES EMBANKMENT.

At the evening sitting Mr. Garnett put a question to Sir J. SHELLY which elicited from the latter a statement relating to the non-production by the Chief Commissioner of Works of a portion of the correspondence having reference to the Thames embankment. Sir J. Shelley charged Mr. Cowper with taking possession of the resolution of the Select Committee ordering the production of the correspondence before it had been copied by the clerk, retaining it in his own hands, and suppressing a material part of it.

Mr. COWPER complained of the many attacks directed against him from certain quarters to prevent the Thames Embankment Bill being considered on its own merits. He admitted that, instead of taking a copy of the resolution, he had carried the original home with him; but he did so with a view of facilitating the production of the papers. These he had promised

to furnish, but upon investigating inquiries in the office he found there was one portion of the correspondence which was in another department, and over which he had no control. It would, however, be produced shortly. The resolution of the Committee included the correspondence relating to the entire embankment.

On the order of the day for going into Committee upon the bill, Mr. DOUTTON moved as an amendment to the motion "that the Speaker do now leave the chair," that the bill be re-committed to the former Committee; and that it be an instruction to the Committee on the bill to make provision therin for the construction of a continuous line of roadway from Blackfriars to Westminster-bridge. The hon. member contended that, notwithstanding the evidence before the Committee, two-thirds of the traffic that came down Parliament-street went over Westminster-bridge; and that two-thirds of the traffic that went up Parliament-street turned to the right, and went along the Strand. He therefore argued that the continuation of the embankment to Westminster-bridge would greatly relieve the traffic of the overcrowded thoroughfare of the Strand.

In the course of the discussion that ensued several of the members of the Committee defended the conclusion at which they had arrived.

Mr. TITE stated his reasons for supporting, as an architect, the decision of the Committee.

Mr. J. LOCKE criticised Mr. Tite's opinion, and asserted that the Committee generally were in favour of an embankment from Blackfriars up to Westminster-bridge. The only question was, whether they should stop the road at Whitehall and have merely a footway thence to Westminster-bridge. He thought that the public had a right to insist upon the roadway being continued the whole way notwithstanding the objections of the Duke of Buccleuch and other proprietors in the neighbourhood to such roadway.

Mr. HORSMAN, in an eloquent speech, defended the course taken in the matter by the Duke of Buccleuch, and passed a high eulogium upon the character and conduct of his Grace.

Lord PALMERSTON contended that the plan recommended by the Committee was one that did not meet the wants of the people of the metropolis. As the embankment was to be carried out at their expense, they ought to have the full use and enjoyment of it.

Mr. DOUTTON having withdrawn his amendment, the House went into Committee, when clauses up to 5 were agreed to. The House then resumed.

THE LEASE OF MONTAGU HOUSE.

CONSIDERABLE discussion has lately taken place in reference to the renewal of the Duke of Buccleuch's lease of the site of Montagu House, which is public property, and would soon have been of immense value, both for the erection of public offices and in connection with the proposed works for the embankment of the Thames and the formation of a roadway along the margin of the river. The following account of the affair we copy from a contemporary:—

It is more than probable that the report of the Thames Embankment Committee will give rise to much animated discussion both in and out of Parliament. We are just now dealing with but a small instalment of a grand scheme which, sooner or later, will certainly be carried out, and which will substitute wide public quays, such as adorn the Seine in Paris and the Arno in Florence, for the mean and ruinous sheds and foul mudbanks at present degrading and contaminating the margin of the Thames.

The section of this scheme which has been lately under the consideration of a Committee of the House of Commons, extends but from Blackfriars to Westminster. We have learnt with consternation that the report of the Committee recommends that the public road along the embankment shall extend no further than from Blackfriars to Whitehall-stairs, and that it shall at that point turn up into Whitehall, and pour its traffic into Parliament-street. The only reason given for this extraordinary suggestion is, "that further time may be thus afforded for ascertaining the best means of relieving the thoroughfares of the metropolis."

It must, however, be clear to everybody who has attended the sittings of the Committee that the reason thus given is not the real reason; that the motives by which its members have been influenced are very different from those by which they say, and we hope they suppose, they have been actuated.

Between Whitehall-stairs and Westminster-bridge stand the residences of the Duke of Buccleuch and of one or two other gentlemen who possess considerable Parliamentary influence. If the original scheme submitted to the Committee was persisted in, a public road will be opened in front of these houses, between them and the river, by which they will be separated from it, exactly as the houses in Piccadilly-terrace are separated by Piccadilly from the Green Park. The Duke and his neighbours object to this intrusion; they are dubious that the embankment shall be made; they are even willing to incur a portion of the cost of making it—for its construction would be an enormous advantage to them—but they are determined, if they can, that the new quay—public everywhere else—shall be kept strictly private in front of their residences.

His Grace holds the ground on which Montagu House stands on a lease from the Crown for ninety-nine years, commencing in 1855. The old mansion, recently pulled down, was built in 1733 and a lease of it for sixty-two years, commencing in 1806, was granted to his Grace's father in 1810. It appears from Parliamentary papers now before us, printed on the 11th of August, 1854, that the Duke has long been anxious, for good and sufficient reasons, to obtain a renewal of the old lease granted to his father in 1810, and that the Lords of the Treasury, with whom the matter rested, have been equally determined not to grant any such renewal, on the ground that the site of Montagu House would, in 1863, be required for the erection of public offices.

Early in 1852 the Whigs were driven from office, and Lord Derby succeeded them. At this crisis the Duke of Buccleuch, in no way disengaged by the decided refusal which he had already received from the Whig Lords of the Treasury in 1850, again pressed that department for a renewal of his lease. In June, 1852, we find the Duke's agent, Mr. Frederick Nicholl, of Carey-street, addressing Mr. Charles Gore, of the Woods and Forests, on behalf of his employer, and renewing the very same application that had been firmly rejected but two years before.

In spite, however, of Mr. Nicholl's importunity, and in spite of the marked and affectionate interest which Mr. Charles Gore appears to have taken in the subject, the Tory Lords of the Treasury, who had just come into office, and probably expected to remain in (for they anticipated great things from the impending dissolution of Parliament), very properly declined to entertain the gross job suggested to them by Messrs. Nicholl and Gore, and their refusal is recorded in a Treasury minute, dated Aug. 17, 1852.

Here the subject would probably have dropped for ever had not the general election, which took place in the autumn of 1852, proved unfavourable to the Tory cause. The new Parliament met on the 4th of November, and while the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Disraeli) was girding himself up for the onslaught which he knew would be made on his financial measures by Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Forbes Mackenzie, the Patronage Secretary of the Treasury, was exerting himself to prop up shaky votes and to make political converts by the usual means found efficacious on such emergencies. It was well known that if the Tories were forced to resign, Lord Aberdeen would succeed Lord Derby; and the Duke of Buccleuch, a nobleman of vast political influence, was more than suspected by the Carlton Club of entertaining dangerous Peelite tendencies. It became, therefore, desirable that he should be well looked after and conciliated as much as possible.

So at this critical juncture, the subject of the lease of Montagu House suddenly cropped up again, spontaneously as it were. It does not appear, from the papers before us, that the Duke himself revived it, or that Messrs. Nicholl and Gore bestirred themselves afresh on his behalf. Nevertheless, we find that on the 8th of December (the discussion on Mr. Disraeli's financial measures, on which the fate of his Government depended, having been fixed for the 10th) a friendly letter was addressed by the Secretary of the Treasury to Mr. Gore apprising him that "my Lords" had reconsidered the matter of the renewal of the lease so much desired by the Duke; that, since their last refusal to grant it, "my Lords" had obtained information regarding the terms of the leases of the houses in Richmond-terrace, which had changed their views; and that this new information, coupled with the fact that the Duke was a very old tenant of the Crown, had induced them to agree that a lease of ninety-nine years should be granted to him.

Reference to the plan facing page 2 of the papers before us shows that "my Lords" did not adhere very rigidly to the truth in making this communication, inasmuch as the information regarding the terms of the leases of the houses contiguous to Montagu House had been submitted to them, not since the 17th of Aug. 1852, which is the date of the last minute refusing to grant the proposed renewal, but as far back as the 7th of October, 1850. And, as the last refusal had taken place in September, 1852, the Duke was but three months older tenant when he got the lease than he had been when the selfsame Government had flatly refused to grant it to him. Be that as it may, two days after "my Lords'" conciliatory letter was written to the Duke the discussion on Mr. Disraeli's financial measures was resumed in Parliament, and, after a debate which lasted four nights, the Tories were driven from office by a small majority, and the Peelites succeeded them. We are not in a position to say on which side the Duke of Buccleuch exerted his influence on that occasion in the House of Commons, or whether he exerted it at all on either side; but such are the more than suspicious circumstances under which his Grace got a lease for ninety-nine years, on remarkably easy terms, of one of the most valuable pieces of land in the metropolis, as proved by official documents and by dates which cannot



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ALICE MAUD MARY.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYALL.)



HIS SERENE HIGHNESS PRINCE FREDERIC GUILLAUME LOUIS OF HESSE.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYALL.)

THE MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCESS ALICE.

THE VICE-CHAMBERLAIN.

ROYAL marriages are generally early, and it would have been a very early marriage if the Princess Alice Maud Mary, born April 25, 1843, had married the young German Prince, who had become a frequent guest at the palace, when originally intended. On May 3, 1861, Lord Palmerston brought up a message from her Majesty communicating the intention of her Majesty to sanction a marriage between her Royal Highness Princess Alice and Prince Louis of Hesse, and expressing her Majesty's conviction that the House would make an adequate provision for her Royal Highness. After some remarks of a congratulatory nature, Lord Palmerston moved that an address be presented to her Majesty in reply to her message. Mr. Disraeli seconded the motion, which was agreed to; and Lord Palmerston gave notice that on the following Monday he would ask the House to go into Committee on her Majesty's message. When Monday came, Lord Palmerston moved a resolution granting to Princess Alice an annuity of £1000, which was agreed to; and in Committee of Supply it was agreed that a dower of £30,000 should be granted to the Princess Alice on the occasion of her marriage. On May 3 a similar message was communicated to the Lords by Earl Granville.

Report speaks well of Prince Louis, who is about six years older than his bride, having been born in 1837. His father, Prince Charles, is the heir to the Grand Duchy, to which in course of time Prince Louis, his eldest son, may hope to succeed. Another alliance thus made between the Royal family of Great Britain and the ruling houses of the minor States of Germany, whose Princes, on account of the Protestant faith which they profess, are so frequently selected for this honour.

The Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt, though standing but ninth in the list of Princes represented in the German Diet, is a potentate of some importance. The population of his States is about half that of Hanover, or Norway, or Wurtemberg; about six times that of the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg. They are divided into three parts, each peopled by 300,000 souls, or nearly that number, the total population being 850,000. Many thriving towns are comprised in the principality. There is Darmstadt, the chief town; Giessen, the capital of chemical science; Bingen, set like a gem in a setting of Rhine mountains, and watered by the river which Germans love so well; Offenbach, on the Maine, near Frankfort; Worms, one of the most ancient of European cities, famous in the history of the Reformation; Mayence, the seat of the principal fortress of the German Confederation. Such is the scenery amid which our Princess Alice will ere long make her home. She is not going far from us. She is only being transplanted into the classic ground of the land whose genii, whose poetry, music, and history had entered so deeply into the soul of her father, and whose literature, more than that of any other people, has influenced and formed our own of this present day.

THE MARRIAGE.

On Tuesday the marriage of her Royal Highness Princess Alice with Prince Louis of Hesse took place privately at Osborne; the ceremony being performed by the Archbishop of York, in the unavoidable absence of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Her Majesty the Queen, suffering under her recent severe affliction, attended in a most private manner, in deep mourning, surrounded by her four sons, their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, Prince Arthur, and Prince Leopold.

The ceremonial of the marriage of her Royal Highness Princess Alice Maud Mary, second daughter of her Majesty Queen Victoria, and of his late Royal Highness Albert, Prince Consort, Duke of Saxony, and Prince of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, with his Grand Ducal Highness Prince Frederic William Louis, eldest son of his Grand Ducal Highness Prince Charles William Louis, brother of the Grand Duke of Hesse, was as follows:—

The Royal personages and others invited were conducted to their places by the Lord Chamberlain and the Vice-Chamberlain. The Queen, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, Prince Arthur, and Prince Leopold, and attended by her Grace the Duchess of Wellington, Mistress of the Robes, and by her Grace the Duchess of Athole, Lady in Waiting, was previously conducted from her Majesty's apartment by the Lord Chamberlain to a chair on the left side of the altar. When the Queen was seated, and the Royal personages and other guests had taken their places, the Lord Chamberlain conducted the bridegroom to his place on the right side of the altar. His Grand Ducal Highness the bridegroom was supported by his brother his Grand Ducal Highness Prince Henry of Hesse. The Lord Chamberlain then proceeded to her Majesty's apartments, and conducted the bride thence to her place on the left side of the altar. Her Royal Highness the bride was supported by her uncle, his Royal Highness the reigning Duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, and was accompanied by her Royal Highness's sisters, their Royal Highnesses Princess Helena, Princess Louise, and the Princess Beatrice, and by her Grand Ducal Highness Princess Anna of Hesse, sister of his Grand Ducal Highness the bridegroom, as bridesmaids. The parents of the bridegroom were placed opposite to the the Queen.

When the bride had taken her place the service commenced. The bride was given away by her uncle, his Royal Highness the reigning Duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha. At the conclusion of the service the bride and bridegroom were conducted by the Lord Chamberlain to an adjoining apartment. Her Majesty the Queen remained until all present at the ceremony had withdrawn, and then retired. The other Royal and illustrious personages and guests proceeded to the drawing-room.

The marriage register was taken by the Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor to her Majesty and the bride and bridegroom for their signatures, and subsequently to the drawing-room for the signatures of the remaining witnesses.

The dress worn on the occasion was morning dress. The gentlemen in black evening coats, white waistcoats, grey trousers, and black neckcloths; the ladies in grey or violet morning dresses, and grey or white kid gloves.

The following, among other distinguished personages, besides her Majesty's own family, were present:—Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge, her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, and her Royal Highness the Princess Mary of Cambridge. The family of the bridegroom, their Grand Ducal Highnesses the Prince and Princess Charles of Hesse, Prince Henry and Prince William of Hesse, and Princess Anna of Hesse. Their Royal Highnesses the Crown Prince of Prussia, the reigning Duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, the Duke of Nemours and Prince and Princess Augustus of Saxe Coburg, their Serene Highnesses the Princess of Hohenlohe and Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, Count Gleichen, his Highness the Maharajah Duleep Singh; the Minister of the Court of Hesse accredited to Great Britain, Count von Goertz; the Archbishop of York, the Lord Chancellor; Earl Granville, K.G.; Earl Russell, K.G.; Viscount Palmerston, K.G., G.C.B.; Sir George Grey, Bart., G.C.B. Her Majesty's Household—the Mistress of the Robes, the Duchess of Wellington; the Lady in Waiting, the Duchess of Athole; the Lady Superintendent, Lady Caroline Barrington; the Maids of Honour in Waiting, the Hon. Beatrice Byng and the Hon. Emily Cathcart; the Lord Steward, the Earl of St. Germans, G.C.B.; the Lord Chamberlain, Viscount Sydney; the Master of the Horse, the Marquis of Ailesbury; the Vice-Chamberlain, Viscount Castlerosse, M.P.; the Keeper of the Privy Purse, Colonel the Hon. Sir C. B. Phipps, K.C.B.; the Hon. Lady Phipps and the Hon. Miss Phipps; the Dean of Windsor and Resident Chaplain to the Queen, the Hon. and Very Rev. Gerald Wellesley, and the Hon. Mrs. Wellesley; the Master of the Household, Colonel T. M. Biddulph, and the Hon. Mrs. Biddulph; the Equerries in Waiting, Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Charles Fitzroy and Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Dadley De Ros; Physicians in Ordinary, Sir James Clark, Bart., and Dr. Jenner; the Librarian to the Queen, Mr. Woodward; German Librarian to the Queen, Mr. Ruijland; Mons. Van de Weyer, the Belgian Ambassador; the Marquis of Abercorn, K.G.; the Earl of Derby, K.G.; the Earl of Clarendon, K.G., G.C.B.; Viscount Torrington, Lord George Lennox, Lord Alfred Paget, Lieutenant-General the Hon. Charles and the Hon.

Mrs. Charles Grey; Major-General Wyld, C.B.; Colonel the Hon. Alexander Gordon, Colonel Francis Seymour, C.B.; the Rev. W. Jolly, and Dr. Becker; besides the suites of the Royal and Grand Ducal personages named above.

A dinner was served at two o'clock, after which the greatest part of her Majesty's Royal and other visitors returned to London.

At about five o'clock their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse left Osborne for St. Clare, near Ryde.

Her Majesty has been pleased to signify her intention of conferring the rank of his Royal Highness on Prince Louis of Hesse.

Prince and Princess Charles of Hesse, and Princess Anna of Hesse, arrived at the Palace Hotel, Buckingham Gate, at ten minutes before eight o'clock on Tuesday evening. The illustrious party quitted Osborne at four o'clock, crossed from Osborne pier in the Fairy Royal steam-yacht to Gosport, and travelled by a special train on the South-Western Railway to Vauxhall. The Duke of Saxe Coburg also arrived at the Palace Hotel at the same time, having crossed from Osborne in the Elfin.

MARRIAGE PRESENTS TO PRINCESS ALICE.

Her Majesty's gift to Princess Alice is a beautiful bracelet studded with pearls and diamonds, with the likeness of the Queen and the Prince Consort set round with pearls and diamonds; on the top is the Royal coronet, and at the bottom the likeness of Princess Alice and Prince Louis, with their monograms. The Queen also presents the Princess with three rings, which are in accordance with the prevailing fashion of gifts at great weddings—namely, a ring of diamonds, one of emeralds, and one of rubies. The Prince of Wales's present to his sister on her marriage is a parure or bodice of emeralds and diamonds, and a tiara of the same precious stones. The Royal Highnesses present a reserve of silver gilt. The Prince Consort's presents were prepared last year, before December. They consisted of two bracelets, a splendid brooch, and a tiara of diamonds and emeralds. Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal presented Princess Alice with a handsome ebony dressing-case, ornamented and lined throughout with the richest silk velvet, fitted with highly-clasped, engraved, and engine-turned gold-mounted articles, the crown and cipher elaborately worked on each.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 1862.

MORE GAME LAWS.

THE consideration of any proposal affecting the game laws does not now, as within living memory, evoke, upon the one hand, selfish stolid obstinacy to reason, and, on the other, furious denunciation. In a general way, we think it may be conceded that a wealthy person who may choose to breed and harbour pheasants and partridges upon his own ground has a right to any pleasure or profit he may gain by slaughtering the creatures superior to that of any sly or ruffianly stranger who may sneak or break into his preserves. The newspapers have done something, too, towards changing the popular conception of the character of poachers. These are now no longer regarded as the

lads of high renown
Who pull the lofty pheasant down
With powder, shot, and gun,

but are seen in the clearer light of prose and fact as the idle, ignorant, half-savage "ne'er-do-wells" who prefer a predatory to an industrious livelihood. We make these admissions in full candour, while reserving the strongest objections not only to any amplification of the game laws, but even to their present state, and specially to their present administration.

Within the last few days an attempt has been made to secure increased protection for the game-preservers by new enactments, which are intended to throw upon the rural police the duties of assistant keepers. By what is called a "side wind," a bill bearing the specious title of a Police Counties and Boroughs Bill has been framed to embrace this object, and introduced to the Commons, while, in the Upper House, Lord Berners has sought to effect the same object more openly by an act for the extension of the game laws. It appears that the country gentry take insufficient means for the preservation of their game, and they desire the aid of the police for that purpose. The constables are to be authorised not only to stop, search, and, if need be, arrest, "loose, idle, and disorderly persons" suspected of intending to steal game, but also to seize carts or carriages containing, or supposed to contain, game unlawfully obtained.

There is enough of what is obviously proper and just in the proposition to render it insidious. The most enthusiastic supporter of the liberty of the subject would scarcely maintain that a gang of idle ruffians, armed with guns and bludgeons, should be allowed to pass the police by night upon a country road without question or hindrance. It would, in fact, be a startling condition of the law were this so; but, even while we write, the journals are reporting the murder of a policeman by such a gang with whom he interfered in the execution of his duty.

The game-preservers, no doubt, find it a difficult task which they have imposed upon themselves. They are engaged in an unequal struggle against the laws of nature, which decree that wild creatures must gradually become extinct as civilisation advances. They may pen and coop their pheasants and partridges as long as they please; but then the sport fails. If they set the birds free, they fly beyond the landmarks of the proprietor, when by every rule of justice, common sense, and even law (with the sole exception of the game laws) they become the property of any one skilful enough to kill or capture them. Let the gameowners argue as they may, they will never convince the popular mind that this is not the true, as it is the natural, view of the question. But this in no way tends to justify the act of trespass upon the owner's ground

for the purpose of a profit, whether out of animals, *etc.*, or any other source.

It is the best-known duty incident to property that the possessor is bound to take care of it—firstly, that he may never let it; secondly, that it may not cause injury to others. How is this observed by the gameowners? In the first place, the very nature of the game is transitory; and, secondly, it maintains itself in great part at the expense of the neighbouring farmers. Hence the necessity for those artificial restrictions which we term game laws, which are, in fact, nothing. Being utterly contrary to nature and natural instincts, they are found, as a matter of necessity, to be cruel and oppressive on the one side and ineffectual on the other. They do evil even to the moral of the community; they cause idleness, desperation, and frequently murder. And it is this system which the public is called upon to patch and patch up by converting its own constables into assistant gamekeepers and saving the proprietors the expense of repairing their own fences.

Our contemporary the leading journal, while advocating the proposed extension of the powers given by the game laws, lays it down as an axiom "that there could not be a worse hearing for the idle banditti of some of our manufacturing districts than that the game laws were abolished." Could their most eager opponent desire a better admission from the other side than that contained in this single sentence?

It has often been urged that the repeal of these laws, leading inevitably to the extinction of game, would inflict serious injury upon the country by lessening the inducements to landholders to spend their time upon their estates. Also that the deprivation of the "sport" would be a cruel hardship upon the gentry. As to the latter suggestion, it is difficult to believe that English gentlemen would find no pleasure in their woods and fields, no means of healthy outdoor recreation, if deprived of the means of slaughtering wild edible creatures. As for the former, it is simply ridiculous to suppose that for such a cause they would become voluntary exiles from their own houses, lands, and native country, and that, too, at a period of the year when home exhibits its brightest allurements, when a foreign residence is least inviting, and when travelling is almost intolerable.

We would retain reasonably severe punishment for every such infraction of the rights of property as is committed by a trespass for any purpose, and especially when committed with intent to bring anything whatever off the land. But we must earnestly deny the right of the game-preservers to add to the protection already afforded them by the laws. The less they attempt to move in this direction the longer it may happen to be before the present remnant of the old, barbarous feudal legislation may be numbered with the things of the past.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, it is said, has signified her intention to confer the Military Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath on his Highness the Viceroy of Italy, as an acknowledgment of the important services rendered by him to this country.

MISS RUSSELL, daughter of Lord Charles Russell, is shortly to be married to Mr. Bevan, son of Mr. Bevan the banker.

FRIENDS OF THE LATE JOHN CROSS, and admirers of his pictures, will learn with satisfaction that a grant of £100 per annum has been made to his widow from the Civil List.

THE NEWLY-BORN INFANT OF THE QUEEN OF SPAIN has received no less than 124 names! The birth was extremely sudden—the Stateauthorities and deputies having barely time to reach the palace in order to "assist," as the phrase is, at the Royal accouchement.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE HON. MISS CECILIA CAMPBELL, third daughter of the late Lord Chancellor Campbell, to Mr. Vaughan Johnson, the Clancery barrister, will shortly take place.

MAJOR-GENERAL THE HON. ROBERT BRUCE, Governor to the Prince of Wales, caught a fever at Constantinople while he was there with his Royal Highness, returned home a fortnight ago, and died last week at St. James's Palace. He was the brother of Lord Elgin, the Governor-General of India.

UPWARDS OF £8000 has been subscribed towards the proposed testimonial to Sir James Outram.

THE DUCHESS DOWAGER OF BUCKINGHAM died at Stow on Saturday last, after a lengthened illness, alleviated by the attention of her son and daughter. Her Ladyship was the youngest daughter of the first Marquis of Bredalbane, and, distinguished in all the relations of life, she has died but in a very numerous circle of friends.

ON SATURDAY MISS BURDETT COUTTS handed over to the public the drinking-fountain which she has erected in Victoria Park. The Hon. W. Cowper, First Commissioner of Works, was present, and made a speech on the occasion.

AT A LATE MEETING of the Society of Painters in Water Colours, for the election of a full member from the list of Associates, the choice fell upon Mr. Birket Foster.

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT has published a decree abolishing its monopoly of the sale of salt. The salt mines belonging to the State are to be sold or farmed. An Imperial decree has also been issued establishing a new university at Odessa.

THE PRINCE CONSORT, iron-clad steam-ship of war, was successfully launched at Pembroke Dockyard on the 27th ult.

DURING THE RECENT ENGAGEMENTS in the valley of the Shenandoah, Colonel Sir Percy Windham, who commanded a body of Federal cavalry, was captured by the Confederates.

BY TELEGRAM FROM BOMBAY we learn that Dost Mohammed's army is approaching Furrash, and that Sultan Jan is retiring to Herat.

A NUMBER OF GOLD AND SILVER FISH, sent out from this country to Australia, have arrived at their destination alive and healthy.

IT IS GENERALLY RUMOURED in diplomatic circles that Count de Flahaut, Ambassador of France, will shortly relinquish his post at the Court of St. James's. It is said that Count de Persigny, who previously filled that position at the British Court, will be the successor of his Excellency.

THE TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT have offered to give the whole proceeds of the submarine cable across Bass's Straits to any company who will keep the cable in repair.

THE JEWS IN POLAND are to receive full civil rights, which are now, therefore, conceded in principle by all the five great Powers.

THE ADMIRALTY have decided upon giving Mr. Reed permission to try his scheme of semi-iron plating on the Favourite, a fine corvette of 1857 tons, and which was originally intended to mount 22 guns.

THE GREAT EASTERN left the Mersey on Tuesday for New York. She took out an immense number of passengers, many of whom are excursionists, having taken return tickets.

SOme SPECIMENS OF WOOL have been received at Sydney from the Fiji Islands.

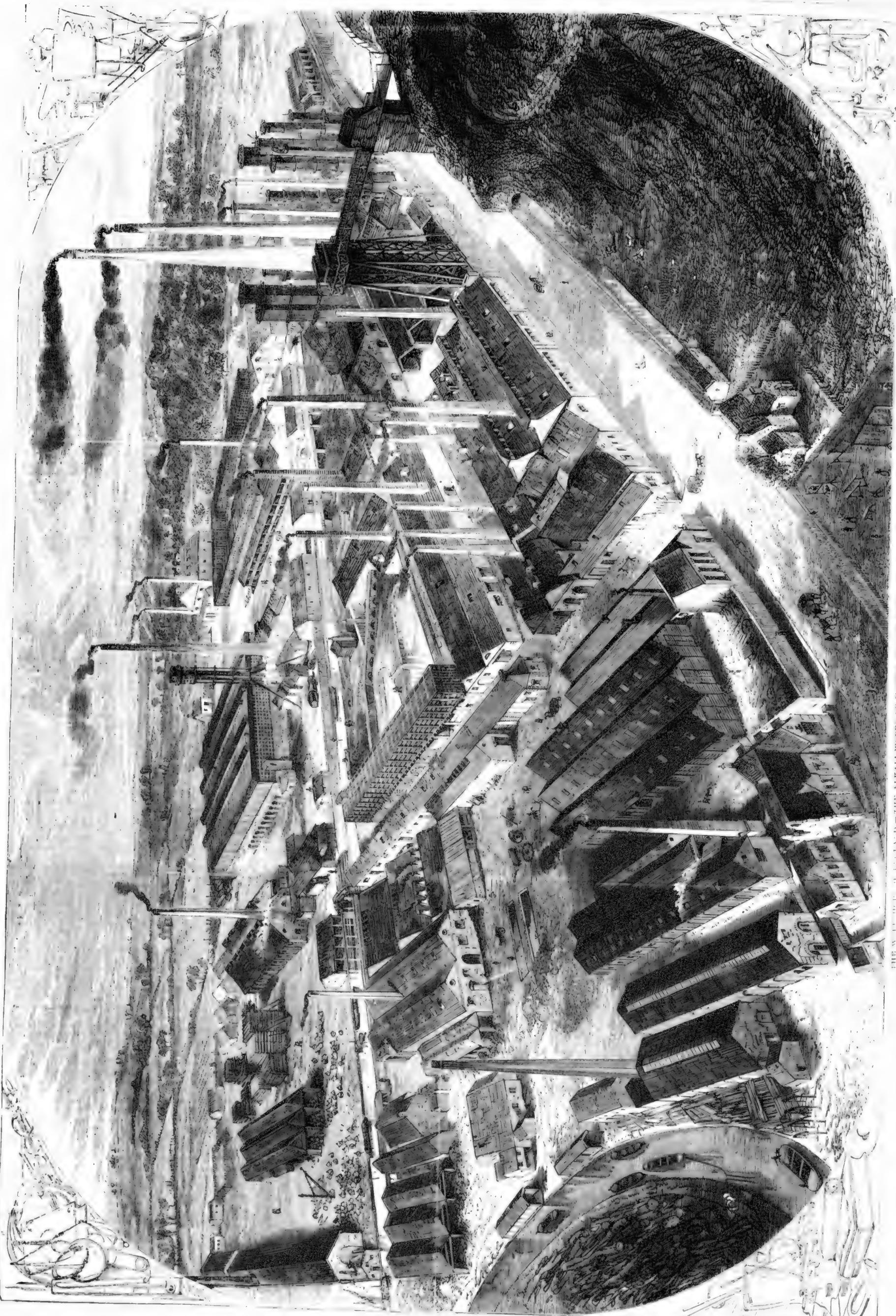
A TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION has been established between Melbourne and Port Macquarie, in South Australia.

DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR the yield of gold in New South Wales was £3,746,000. In the corresponding period last year it was only £2,724,000.

THE JUDGMENT of the Court of Dordt, relieving M. Miret from the conviction brought against him, has been annulled "in the interest of the law" by the Court of Cassation. This will not affect M. Miret's personal liberty.

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT has applied officially to that of Great Britain for the loan of a hangman.

GOLD has been discovered in the Calliope ranges, twenty miles from Gladstone, in Queensland.



THE WORKS OF THE BRIDGE.—THE IRON WORKS OF MESSRS. CLASSE & BURTON, AND OTHERS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

stone condensers," which resemble towers with double turrets, and are reached by wooden galleries in the same way as the chambers. The sulphate of soda, after being boiled in the iron pan, is transferred by workmen to the bed of a furnace of similar construction to those known as "reverberatory" furnaces, where it is roasted and finished previous to its removal to the stockroom, afterwards to be converted into carbonate of soda.

To witness this operation, known as the "black-ash" process, I am conducted to a series of furnaces, in the front of each of which a certain weight of sulphate is thrown upon the ground, where it is mixed with regular proportions of coal and carbonate of lime. The workman shovels this mixture on to the bed of the furnace, where the operator frequently stirs it with an iron bar, until decomposition takes place, the sulphate of soda being converted into carbonate, while the sulphur leaves the soda to combine with the calcium of the lime. The charge is then withdrawn, and after a time run into large moulds, previous to being "lixiviated"—a process effected by placing some hundreds of the balls made in the moulds in large iron vats, in which water is freely poured upon them for the purpose of dissolving the carbonate of soda, which runs into reservoirs provided for its reception, while the insoluble portion of the substance remains in the vat. I have by these processes seen how the strong affinity subsisting between chlorine and sodium, the constituents of common salt, was unceremoniously set aside by the introduction of that most energetic agent, sulphuric acid—how, in strict poetical justice, this agent of dissension, sulphuric acid, is compelled by the lime of the carbonate to yield its soda to the gentle influence of the carbonic acid; and, finally, how, in the manner of the inevitable marriage at the end of the performance, the carbonic acid combines with the soda, and lives happily as carbonate of soda in solution. Thus solution has still to undergo several processes of refinement into brown soda ash and white ash until it is sufficiently pure for the crystal-house, to which I am invited to witness its ultimate conversion into carbonate of soda, the "soda" of domestic use. A vast building is devoted to between 200 and 300 great iron pans and vessels

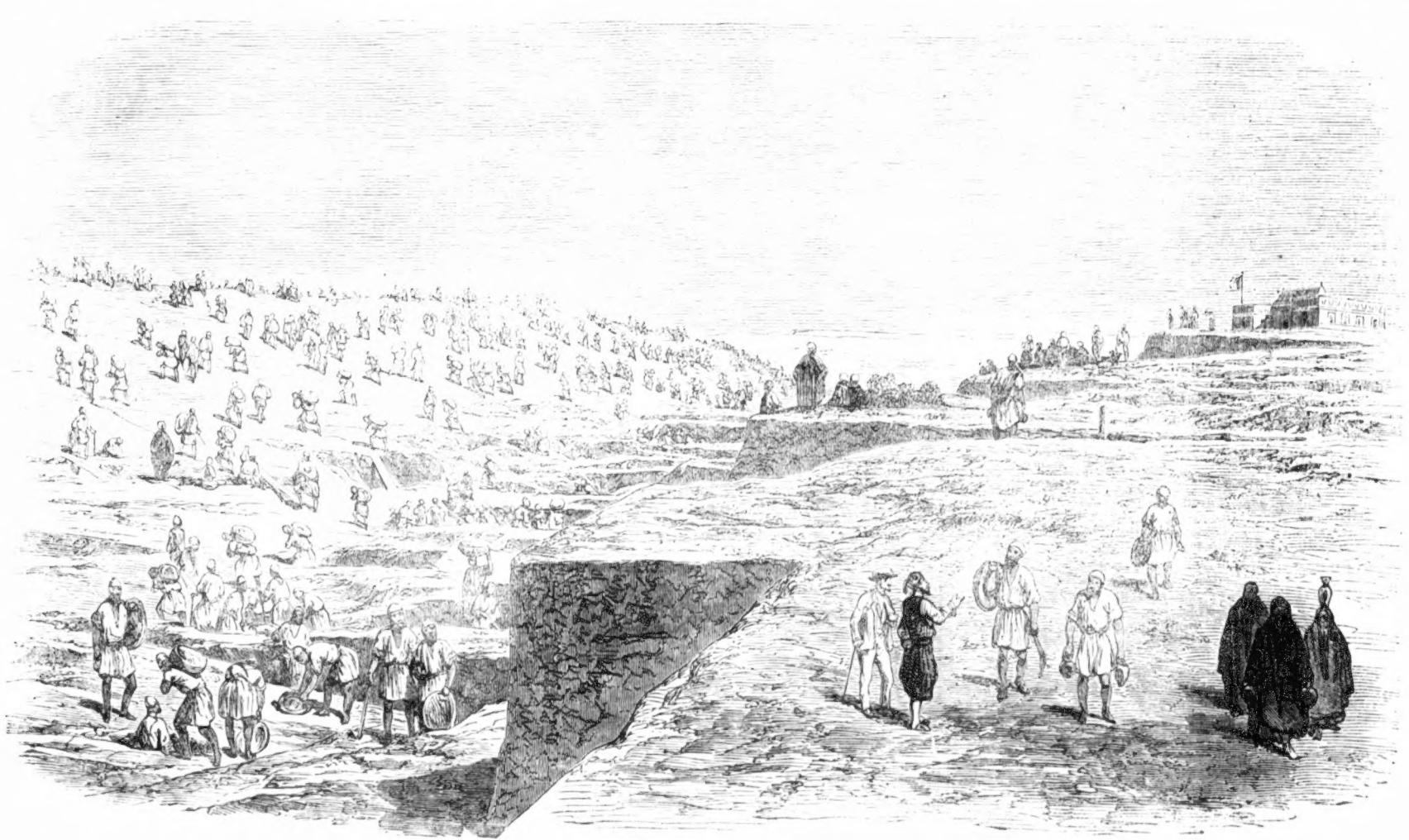


THE SPINNING-WHEEL.—(FROM THE PICTURE, BY N. MAES, IN THE HOPE MUSEUM, AMSTERDAM.)

of various sizes containing the solution of carbonate in various stages of crystallisation, which is assisted by bars placed so as to gather the crystals, which are perfectly white and of a beautiful character; those forming round the sides of the vessels being of considerable thickness, while the pendent crystals are of the oblique, prismatic order, and perfectly defined. The workshop in which this beautiful process is conducted yields a supply of more than 150 tons of soda a week; hearing which, I discover the origin of the glittering white cliffs through which I so lately passed in the stocking-rooms, and recognise them as being composed of the completed material waiting to be broken and packed in various-sized casks ready for the market.

I have yet, however, to witness the conversion of the carbonate into bicarbonate of soda; known (by again dropping the prefix) as the "carbonate," and asked for under that name at the chemists' shops. To produce this, the crystals of carbonate are methodically placed, many tons at a time, in large vessels, into which carbonic acid gas is forced. When the bicarbonate is formed it is taken out, and dried in hot-air stoves made in compartments which resemble the berths of a ship. From these it is carried to the mills, where it is finely ground, and is now ready for packing, an operation performed in a large warehouse, where the fine dust flies like flour, and, if the blooming complexions and vigorous forms of the girls engaged in the work be any indication, is unquestionably beneficial to health. Crystals of soda are also an ingredient in washing powders, which are manufactured upon a large scale, affording employment to a considerable number of females, some of whom are widows and orphans connected with the workpeople of the establishment.

The next important operation being the manufacture of salts of ammonia, I visit the workshop where, in boiler-shaped vessels of iron, the gas-water (ammonia liquor) obtained from the distillation of coal in the manufacture of gas in close retorts is subjected to heat. By this means the ammonia is volatilised, and, passing through large worms, condenses, and is received in a suitable cistern. It is subsequently treated with hydrochloric acid until the point of neutralisation is



THE WORKS OF THE SUEZ CANAL.—VIEW OF THE APPROACH TO EL-GUIRS.

attained. I follow this solution to a large brick building where a number of hemispherical iron pans are placed, each over its own fire. In these the solution is kept boiling until, by the continued evaporation, it has reached the crystallising point. It is then run off into coolers, where it ultimately forms into crystals of the crude salt, and is noted in a stockroom into another row of those cliffs through which I passed to my inquiry. This crude salt is afterwards refined by various processes, the most important of which is sublimation. To effect this it has again to undergo the ordeal of fire. After being slowly dried, it is placed in peculiarly constructed iron vessels, each covered with a cast-iron dome. On the application of the fire, the salt volatilises and rises into this domelike cover, where an effect analogous to condensation takes place, the sublimed or volatilised ammonia gradually incrusting the dome with crystals of sal ammoniac. The covers are now taken off, and the cake of crystal removed and broken up ready for packing. This substance, besides being extensively used by galvanisers, tin-plate-manufacturers, and in chemical processes, where its great purity renders it valuable, is largely exported to Russia, where it is eaten as a luxuriant substitute for common salt.

Much as I am interested by these explanations, it would be strange to acknowledge that my attention is capable of being distracted by the reveries borne upon the wafts of a powerful odour which penetrates the entire workshop. Why should I associate this dreamily with a quiet village church on a sultry summer's evening, with a sleepy hummung in the air, a monotonous drawing of a dull sonor, a little boy in a confused state of unrest, who, suddenly falling forward on the book-board, is caught by protecting arms and awakened by a smelling-bottle. Why, I say, should all these reminiscences throng upon me at this moment? The explanation will be easy to anybody who reflects upon the subtle influence of certain well-remembered scents in recalling past scenes with which they have always been mentally associated. Adjoining the subliming-house, in which I stand, are the buildings for the production of carbonate of ammonia (smelling salts), and this pungent gas volatilises from the crude and finished salts at a very low temperature, and in quantities particularly undesirable to the manufacturers. To produce this powerful scent muriate of ammonia is mingled with carbonate of lime, and the mixture being thrown into retorts, both volatilisation and sublimation result. The carbonate passes away and is carefully collected. This first volatilisation, however, is not considered sufficient, and the product of the first sublimation is placed in spherical iron pots to be once more sublimed into leaden domelike covers. From these the carbonate is occasionally removed and broken into pieces. There are rows of these covered pots which furnish a very considerable amount of carbonate of ammonia every week. The vast number of casks and packages required for the weekly supply of these various products renders it necessary for Messrs. Chance to employ not only a large co-operative but a sawmill on the works. Outside the latter stands a gigantic stack of timber, while inside the powerful steam engine, bright and clean as a working model, and the various vertical and circular saws, attest the immense extent of the business.

As I pass onwards, I am invited to look more closely at the beautiful greenish-blue prismatic crystals which had at first arrested my attention, and learn that they are formed of sulphate of iron, and produced in great quantities by the oxydation of bisulphure of iron, a process which takes place spontaneously from exposure to the air. The solution of the resulting salt, when concentrated and crystallised, becomes an article of large consumption, known as copperas.

Passing the carpenters, smiths, and plumbers' shops, and staying for a moment to glance at the great busy co-operative, I again cross the canal bridge—near which barges of ammoniacal liquor are being emptied into receivers leading to the tanks—leave the boat-building yard, the great heaps of ammonia, and the blocks of leaden chambers, and enter an immense and lofty building known as the superphosphate-house. On each side of the factory lie hills of superphosphate of lime, while the centre is occupied by row after row of bags filled with this valuable manure. Numbers of men are employed in mixing the superphosphate with ammonia, nitrate of soda, and other important constituents, while others are filling, weighing, marking, and sewing up the bags ready for the canal boat which lies alongside almost at the door.

Superphosphate of lime is the most valuable ingredient of artificial manure, and is made from bones, or bone ashes, and coprolites. These are treated with sulphuric acid, which, combining with the lime present in the carbonates and phosphates, renders the previously insoluble salts soluble. Thus prepared, the superphosphate is mixed with nitrogenous materials and sent to the farmer. As some indication of the extent of this branch of manufacture, I learn that during last year and in the county of Dorset alone upwards of £50,000 was spent on artificial manures. I have thus briefly witnessed most of the principal operations carried on at these works, resulting in the production of enormous quantities of chemicals used by manufacturers and for domestic purposes, and such as are daily supplied to the various home and foreign markets. These include sulphate of soda; soda crystals, or washing soda; soda-ash of various strengths, caustic alkali, bicarbonate of soda, rectified sulphuric acid (concentrated oil of vitriol), brown sulphuric acid, salt ammoniac, white crystallised muriate of ammonia, sulphate of ammonia, carbonate of ammonia, copperas, washing powder, superphosphate of lime, and artificial manure. In the production of all these articles, Messrs. Chance do not aim at the supply of cheap and inferior manufactures at a low price, but by the use of the best materials and the most scientific processes obtain chemicals of so uniform a purity that their name has become a guarantee of good quality.

It is now time, however, that I should conclude my visit to these marvellous workshops, where, day and night, with the exception of Sundays, these processes are continually carried on by the six hundred hands who are regularly employed there. As I pass once more towards the gate I am rejoiced to learn that, as well as the schools for the children, there is established at Messrs. Chance's works a regularly-qualified surgeon, who is paid from a general fund contributed by the workpeople in proportion to the wages earned, and attends personally twice every day, so that ready relief may be obtained in case of sickness.

This information, with five minutes' desultory chat about the present state of affairs in America, which have had a most depressing influence on the trade in chemicals, and greatly affected the demand for the manufactures of Oldbury, leads me once more to the gate, whence I look towards the tall, spanning bridge which connects the huge mountain of "waste" with this city of transformations.

A.

THE SPINNING-WHEEL.

The hum of the spinning-wheel is seldom heard now in the cottage homes of England, the grandam no longer sits in the snitching the spindle, the young village maiden has forgotten the "wheel-songs" which were adapted by their metre to the action of the arm in winding. A score of old customs, connected not only with the social habits but with the industry of the country, are preserved only by the narrative of the poet and the dramatist or by the art of the painter. Machinery supplies the place of individual and separate hand labour, and occupies another side of the picturesque, leaving almost forgotten the "interiors" where, silent or jubilant in song, the toilers wrought patiently and alone.

The picture from which our Engraving is taken represents an old Dutch dame occupied with wheel and distaff, and is one of those closely-rendered and exquisitely-painted works which Dutch artists love. It occupies a place in the Van der Hoop Museum, and its author, the namesake of half a score of painters, is neither Arnold van Maes, nor Adrian, nor Pieters, nor Gérard of Amsterdam, nor Van der Maes, the historical portrait-painter of the seventeenth century; neither is he Dyck Maes, of Haarlem. He boasts a name, and again a nickname, which is in itself a great reputation and makes him the superior of these. He was of the Rembrandt school, and to mark his success in following the great master was named Rembrandtsche Maes, his real name being Nicolas. In various parts of Holland, in St. Petersburg, Berlin, and London, the works of this artist attest his skill in painting those beautiful interiors which

depend for interest only on their entire simplicity. Looking at this picture of the old dame spinning, it seems to appeal to our sympathies as being but a portion of a bygone time not long past; and, indeed, the wheel and distaff survived a thousand changes of dress, and politics, and social institutions.

Is there generations old this picture, for Nicolaus Maes died in 1638; and yet it tells a human story, and by that very fact becomes immortal.

THE WORKS AT THE SUEZ CANAL AT THE ENTRANCE OF EL-GUIRS.

The approach to El-Guirs, situated near the centre of the Isthmus of Suez, is at least sixty feet above the level of the water. This high land is said to have been formed by the constant accumulation of sand by those whirling sandstorms, one of which has inundated the canal itself.

Under the influence of the frequent north-west winds, the sands from the Egyptian desert are regularly driven towards the borders of Asia, and have formed in Syria that singular mountainous ridge which undulates like a sea, and is constantly fed by the new influxes which come, borne upon the air, to swell the mass. One portion of the sand, however, elevates itself but little above the earth, where it rolls and shifts at a varied height, seldom exceeding four or five feet, its arid billows rapidly filling up every crevice in the soil as well as the basins of the salt lakes and those of Menzeh Tinsah; unless its course is arrested by obstacles against which it accumulates in a mighty shifting mass. A few tamarisks, the hardy shrub of the desert, are a sufficient dyke to oppose the eddying waves. To these the sand attaches itself and accumulates into a bank sufficiently stable to arrest the flow of the waves, but never reaches beyond a certain height. The dust which has been blown to the summit of the hill, however, is never left by the wind to fall again to the bottom, but is carried onward towards the Asiatic plains. During this time the lakes and valleys of the Isthmus are protected by the first barrier guarding their outskirts, and the sweet water of some of the lakes maintains vegetable life under the whirling sandstorm which perpetually rolls towards Syria.

It is in this way that the approach to El-Guirs has been formed, and the bed of Lake Tinsah remains unchanged, as represented in the distance in our Engraving. It was on the eminence above the lake that the pavilion of the Viceroy of Egypt was erected when he visited the works.

El-Guirs itself extends north and south in the same line as the maritime canal, and here the waters are collected and the trench protected against the invasion of the shifting sands. To accomplish the work the company have assembled 20,000 workmen, who labour in relays from time to time. It would be difficult to give an idea of the extraordinary scene presented by the bustling activity of this army of labourers amidst the Oriental glare of arid hills and plains; but the contemplation of such a vast force intended to carry out a pacific work for the world's progress cannot be regarded without emotion. It may be easily understood that, with so many workshops and such a band of workers, the project goes on rapidly towards completion. Meanwhile the workmen are well cared for; the great number of fellahs placed at the disposal of the company by the Egyptian Government are assured not only payment but abundant food and medical advice in case of sickness. At present the mortality in the Isthmus has been inconsiderable, and the natives are daily profiting by the advantages they derive from association with European habits and customs.

SCHOOLS FOR SAILORS.—Everything that concerns the moral welfare and improvement of the sailor is of primary importance to a maritime power such as that of the British empire. Her strength and her commercial prosperity are alike dependent on her strength at sea, whether in ships destined for purposes of war or in vessels intended only for the operations of commerce. And it may be taken for an axiom that as with all other classes of men so with the seafaring, their physical force is closely related to, and dependent upon, their moral worth. In the long run, a sober, steady, and intelligent class of seamen will produce greater results than one depraved in mind, and enfeebled through vice, in body. The better the men in their minds, the more courageous, the more enduring, the more industrious, and the more intelligent they are likely to be. Government is not averse to providing teachers for schools of this kind; and the Committee of Council has even offered premiums for certificated masters who will fit in this capacity. But, with the usual wisdom of the circumlocution office, conditions are annexed to the offers made, which render their acceptance practically impossible. It is uncertain at present how many teachers have availed themselves of the encouragement thus held out; but the following specimen of what this encouragement is may be found in the "Official Calendar" for 1862, issued by the Government, the only information known to be printed upon the subject:—"The certificate allowance will be dependent on the average number of bona fide sailors, seamen and apprentices—who attend during 200 evenings in the year, and will be paid at the rate of 10s. per head of the average up to the maximum which the teacher is qualified to earn by the grade of his certificate. The payments on results, which are unlimited, are dependent on the number of prizes taken by the pupils when examined by the inspector, and will be at the rate of 5s., 10s., and £1, according to the grade of the certificate." What! sailors and apprentices to attend on shore 200 evenings in the year! Sailors, not sailors, should have been printed! Catch an able-bodied seaman or an apprentice on shore 200 days out of the 365!

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of this institution was held on Thursday, at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. A reward of £6 was voted to pay the expenses of the institution's life-boat stationed at Polkerris, near Fowey, Cornwall, in putting off and saving during a heavy gale of wind, and under very adverse circumstances, the Danish schooner *Sylphyden*, of Nakskov, and her crew of seven men. Mr. Stabb, chief officer of the constabulary, had gone off in the life-boat, and it was reported that much of the success of this valuable service was owing to his highly meritorious conduct and good seamanship. The institution voted to Mr. Stabb £100, inscribed on vellum. Payments were also made to the crews of the life-boats of the society stationed at Fowey, Portrush, and Kriegsberg, for services offered to vessels in distress. The silver medal of the institution was voted to James though, formerly, and to John Donovan, chief boatswain of the constabulary, with £2 to the latter, in testimony of their daring conduct in swimming off through a heavy surf, and at great risk of life, assisting to rescue twenty-four men belonging to the ship Queen of Commerce, of Liverpool, which was some time since wrecked near Falmouth Bay. It appeared that the ship struck on a rock about fifty yards from the cliff, which being observed from the shore by though, he, closely followed by Donovan, swam out to the rock, over which the sea was continually breaking. Various other rewards were also voted for saving life. A benevolent lady resident in Leigh had forwarded to the institution a liberal donation of £100. The society decided to place a life-boat as early as practicable at Tynemouth, on the Northumbrian coast. The cost (£250) of this boat had been presented to the institution by G. J. Fenwick, Esq., of Seaton Burn. A life-boat was also decided to be stationed at New Brighton, near Liverpool. Several life-boat houses were being built for the institution on various parts of the coast, at a cost of £1500. One of them, at Brannion, North Devon, is to be built on piles on the sand, and will, in consequence, be of a very expensive character, the sum required for its erection being nearly £250. It was stated that Gloucester, emulating the example of Ipswich, had decided to collect the cost of a life-boat, and that sermons were to be preached in all the churches and chapels of that town on the 21st inst. in aid of that benevolent object. Payments amounting to £20 having been made on various life-boat establishments, the proceedings terminated.

THE COUNT DE CHAMBORD AND THE FRENCH LEGITIMISTS.—A letter addressed by the Count de Chambord to his political adherents in France has been published. It appears that the Legitimists have remonstrated against an order to abstain from voting at elections, and have obeyed less from reasonable conviction than profound attachment and respectful deference. The Count de Chambord is of opinion that there could neither be sincerity nor dignity were the Royalists to take part in the elections of France. The representative of Charles X., claiming title to the throne through him and his ancestors, is shocked at the want of purity in elections, at the want of liberty in the deliberations of the Chamber. But, lest we should be too much roused to enthusiasm by professions of so great liberality, we are specially reminded of the necessity which exists for the independence of the Holy See, of respect for its sovereignty, for Catholicity, and Christian civilisation, all mentioned in the tenderest point. Though thus defending the previous conduct of his partisans, the Count de Chambord is willing to give more license for the future. He is content that for the sake of supporting the Church his adherents should enter the political arena, that they should exercise the franchise for the sake of selecting supporters of the Pope. For the rest, the policy of the exiled house consists of continual protestations and unceasing abstinence from political functions.—The Legitimist Congress in Lucca has concluded its sittings, and the Count de Chambord, with his sister, the Duchess of Parma, left Lucca on Sunday. The actual number of Legitimists who have assembled in the town during the stay of the Bourbonian Prince is stated to have been 350.

THE GRAND NATIONAL RIFLE CONTEST.

The third grand national rifle contest held under the auspices of the National Rifle Association commenced on Tuesday a very quiet number of people to Wimbleton-common. In 1850 the number of people to an affair of State, for the Queen in person fired two shots, and the expectation that she would do so came to nothing. Nevertheless, there was a very fair show of volunteers on the ground, and everything appeared to promise an ardent and well-conducted struggle for the various prizes which during the next ten days were to form the objects of competition on the part of the most distinguished marksmen belonging to our volunteers.

The ground appropriated to the contest is precisely the same as last year, with the exception, perhaps, of a trifling extension on the eastward. Where the common lies open it is surrounded by a wooden fence, around which policemen patrol to prevent intruders from climbing over and so obtaining entrance to the ground without payment of the preliminary shilling—a payment, however, from which volunteers in uniform are exempt.

As was the case last year, there is an encampment of the Guards on the south side of the inclosure. The butts are on the west side, and on the north are the stands prepared for the grand review, which is to take place on Saturday week, the tents appropriated to the various regiments connected with the contest, the refreshment-booths, and so on, are also applicable to miscellaneous purposes. There is also on the spot an encampment of police, who muster 170 strong, under the command of Mr. Superintendent Walker, of the A division, and who will remain on the ground night and day; and there is a rather extensive encampment of volunteers, principally provincial, who have pitched their tents here with the intention of roughing it, camp fashion, up to the termination of the contest. Most of the English, and several of the Scotch, counties are represented; the number of volunteers is devoting themselves to the enjoyment of a life under canvas, about 100. Some of these tents are all that could be had by a soldier. Folding-chairs, camp bedsteads, baths, and such small articles of comfort, evidence by their presence a desire on the part of their owners to make the most of the novelty of their position. In these tents there is generally a camp bedstead on each side, with a piece of coconut matting on the ground between; but there are others, and more numerous, on which waterproof mattresses lie side by side, so as almost to cover the ground inside, and in which the entire arrangements partake somewhat of a primitive character. But the occupants of these tents, as well as of those of a more luxurious kind, seem quite determined to take things as they come, and prove themselves to be something better than featherbed soldiers.

General Hay, Inspector-General of Musketry at Hythe, acts as general director of the shooting arrangements, which are more particularly under the supervision of Captain Page. Lord Echo, Earl Ducie, Colonel Kennedy, and Lord Grosvenor act on behalf of the council of the National Rifle Association. Lord Radstock, Colonel Gladstone, Captain Templar, and Major Beres, superintendent of the statistical department; Captain McKaye has charge of the firing parties; and for everything there seems to be a directing body, or a directing head. There are within the inclosure a police-station, a post-office, and washing-rooms; while the refreshment booths are as ample as can be desired, and the provision made by the contractor—Mr. Cox, of Manchester—is quite sufficient to meet any probable demand that may spring up during the contest.

The number of butts is upwards of fifty, several having been added since last year—the ranges varying from 200 to 1000 yards. The value of the prizes to be contested for amounts to nearly £3000, being an excess of some £500 over last year, when the aggregate value was only about £2500. Of these, the principal is the Queen's prize of £250, for which there are nearly 1100 entries. Under the head Queen's prize there are also several minor prizes. Thus the "First Stage" includes twenty Whitworth rifles, value twenty-five guineas each, and the silver medal of the National Rifle Association for the best shot of the twenty winners, to whom the contest for the Queen's prize itself will be restricted, as well as for the gold medal of the association, which will accompany it.

Another great object of competition will be the St. George's challenge vase, value £250, presented for annual competition to the volunteer battalions of Great Britain by Lieutenant-Colonel Lindsay on behalf of the members of the St. George's Rifles; and this will be accompanied by a gold enamelled jewel of St. George, with a similar jewel in silver for the second best shot, a bronze cross of St. George for the third best, and a large photograph of the challenge vase and jewel to the battalion which shall prove itself successful. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales gives a prize of £100 (cup or money), there are further the Albert prize of £100 presented by the association, the Duke of Cambridge's prize of £50, the Duke of Wellington's prize of £50, Lord Vernon's prize of £50, Messrs. Eley's prize of £100, the Elcho challenge shield, the Earl of Dudley's prize of £50, and some other prizes; and, in addition, the Rifle Derby, open to all comers of all nations, which last year afforded valuable prizes to the three best shots.

The shooting on Tuesday did not begin till two o'clock, and was for the most part simply preliminary, being confined principally to "pool-targets" and "sighting-targets," which were freely patronised. But that which afforded the most amusement was the "running-deer target," the novel feature of the year so far as this contest is concerned, and which consists of a target in the shape of a deer, of about life-size, which travels along a sort of tramway, depressed in the middle and rising at each end. The deer is pushed from out of a cover at one end of the tram, descends the incline, with increased velocity as it proceeds, and rises up the opposite incline by its own momentum. While on its way it is fired at by those who contribute to the pool; and is the luckiest deer that ever ran, for surely no living animal was ever so often fired at and so often missed. The price of each shot is 2s., one half of which goes to the association, and the other half to make up a pool, which is, or is to be, divided at the close of each day among those of the competitors who have been fortunate enough to make bull's-eyes. The bull's-eye itself is 3s. in diameter, and behind the shoulder. He who hits this is lucky, but, on the contrary, he who hits the haunch has at once to pay down a shilling, which goes to the association. There were plenty of "haunch" hits on Tuesday, but only a few bull's-eyes; in fact, nearly an hour elapsed from the commencement before the first was made, and singularly enough the lucky marksman immediately made a "haunch," and paid his shilling amid the laughter of the spectators. Amusing as it was, this practice was brought to an abrupt termination for the day by the occurrence of two accidents. A bullet, glancing from the "running deer," struck the soldier who was on duty in the "lair" at one end of its range, on the forehead, and then glanced森森 on the leg, injuring him in a way which, although not very serious, rendered it necessary at once to remove him to the hospital tent, where he received prompt attention. His place was taken by a comrade, who had, however, hardly entered upon his duty of securing the deer and turning and starting him afresh, when another bullet, glancing in the same manner, struck him on the arm, and, although he made light of his wound, it was judged prudent to discontinue the practice at the running-deer target—which was accordingly done.

The leading features in Tuesday's programme were the "Middlesex Competition for National Rifle Association Bronze Medal," and the "Lancashire v. Middlesex Competition," each of which gave rise to a spirited contest—the result of the former being a "tie" between Sergeant Bridgeman, of the West Middlesex, and Private Porter, of the 22nd Middlesex. This tie was shot off at 600 yards, and decided in favour of the former, who made a point at his first shot, while the latter failed to do so. The contest between Lancashire and Middlesex terminated in a victory for the Lancastrians by 8 points.

ABOUT SEVENTY YEARS AGO, when cotton from Virginia and Carolina first arrived in the port of Liverpool, it was seized by the officers of customs on the plea that cotton was not a product of America. In the Chagos group of islands, in the Indian Ocean, the most beautiful long-staple cotton grows naturally. The cotton shrub belongs to the mallow tribe of plants, which thrive anywhere within thirty-five degrees of the equator.

LAW AND CRIME.

On Saturday last the Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors held its final sitting and closed for ever. It had been superseded by the new Act on Bankruptcy, the "Insolvent Court," as it was usually termed, was no relic of ancient polity, having been established under a single Commissioner, so recently as the 10th of July, 1813, by Act of Parliament, 53 Geo. III, No. 57. The same Act was appointed a court of appeal by its decisions; but this appointment was revoked in the following year. On the 26th of July, 1820, the court was reconstituted by being subjected to the jurisdiction of three Commissioners, to whom a fourth was added by an Act of the 5th Geo. IV. Subsequent Acts continued the Court, which only enjoyed its existence from time to time, as directed by statute, until the Act of 1st and 2nd Vict., cap. 119, prolonged its existence without limitation. The first Commissioner of the Court was a Mr. Sergeant Bamington, a name to which frequent reference is made in the comic literature of the period, and notably in a once famous parody, beginning—

Cease your dunning,
Sergeant Bamington
shall settle all my debts.

More recently the bench of the Court has been adorned by two celebrated Irishmen, Sergeant Murphy and Mr. Charles Phillips, both men of extraordinary powers of wit and humour, and both endowed with a true Hibernian spirit of lenity towards insolvent—or as the wags used to call it, its petitioners, "insolent"—debtors. Indeed, it was recently reported that, for a considerable time, one of these learned gentlemen was wont to administer justice with a most powerful flavour of mercy towards unfortunate insolvents while sitting with his own protection from arrest in his breast-pocket. The emoluments of their office were earned handsomely enough. The practice of the "law" of the Court was in the hands of two or three barristers, among whom professional rivalry appeared to have reached its utmost limit. Their peculiar kind of *échelle* required, above all things, an enormous power of specimaking, and the poor Commissioners used to sit wearied and annoyed to the very verge of desperation by the fearful amount of "law" to which their daily life was subjected. It was a remarkable fact that the last Act bearing upon the Court, in decreasing its annihilation and transferring its functions, omitted to make any provision for the payment of its clerks during the last months of its career. The Court, which had served to extinguish so many just debts, finished by not paying its own, and by justifying in every sense its own abbreviate designation of the Insolvent Court.

A Mr. Gore brought an action in the Common Pleas against Sir George Grey for having signed a warrant authorising the plaintiff's removal from the Queen's Bench Prison, where he was confined, to Bethlehem Lunatic Asylum, where the unfortunate gentleman was submitted to such cruelties as being not allowed to see his wife or take vinegar with his fish at dinner. The plaintiff pleaded his own case, and occupied an entire day in a wondrous statement of it. One or two witnesses were called for the defence, and proved that satisfactory medical certificates had been obtained of the advisability of his removal, also that his wife had been forbidden to visit him in consequence of her being in the habit of bringing him Acts of Parliament upon his corpus and such matters, which tended to aggravate his disorder. After this evidence, on the second day, and while plaintiff was submitting a witness to an irrelevant cross-examination as to the alleged "locking up of a pump," the jury, with the consent of the Chief Justice, stopped the case by giving a verdict for the defendant.

Mrs. Yelverton appeared as plaintiff in an action for defamation of character by a libel contained in a letter from a Mr. James Walker to the Hon. William Henry Yelverton, brother to Lord Avonmore, in which she was described as a "most degraded woman." The cause was tried before Lord Arundel and a jury at the Court of Session, Edinburgh. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, damages £500, and the result was received with loud cheers.

Two keepers of night-houses in the Haymarket, who had been fined for harbouring disorderly characters, appealed against the decisions to the Court of Queen's Bench. The Court said that, though there was no doubt that persons of bad character were entitled to shelter and refreshment, the question was as to whether the appellants had not really converted their premises into houses of call. This question was for the magistrates, and, as they had convicted the appellants, the Judges affirmed the convictions.

EXCHEQUER CHAMBER.

APPEAL: LIMOUS V. THE LONDON GENERAL OMNIBUS COMPANY.—The plaintiff had brought an action against the defendants for damages sustained by the negligence of their servants. The plaintiff and the defendants were omnibus-proprietors, and when nursing the plaintiff's omnibus the driver of the front bus deliberately and wilfully, and contrary to the defendants' orders, pulled across the road and upset the plaintiff's bus and did the injury complained of. The question for the opinion of the Court was the defendants' liability.

Mr. Justice Wightman, in delivering his judgment, referred to the circumstances of the accident, and to the reason assigned by the defendants' coachman for his misconduct—that he pulled across the road in order to serve the plaintiff's coachman as he had served him. It was, therefore, a wilful and unjustifiable act on the part of the defendants' coachman, and one for which the master was not liable. It was not a case of reckless driving, but a deliberate and wilful running against the omnibus, and was not in the proper course of his employment. He was of opinion there should be a *revers de justice*.

Mr. Justice Wightman was of a contrary opinion. A master was responsible for the acts of his servant in discharge of the duties they had to perform, whether he acted recklessly, carelessly, or wilfully. Mr. Justice Crompton, Mr. Justice Willes, and Mr. Justice Byles were of the same opinion.

Judgment of the Court below was accordingly confirmed.

SHERIFF'S COURT.

IMPORTANT TO PERSONS SUMMONED AS JURORS.—A new list of persons summoned as jurors was called over at the sitting of the Court. Two persons claimed to be excused, being over sixty years of age.

Mr. Under-sheriff Burchell said that they were bound to serve while their names were on the jury list. Their duty was to give notice to the overseers and claim exemption. Persons should understand that they must get their names removed from the list.

Only eleven persons answered, and the barrister in a case called offered to stand with the number. In an intended case the attorney was willing to take it with the eleven.

The learned Under-Sheriff said there must be twelve to try an intended case, as there was no party to consent on the other side. The Under-Sheriff directed the two persons over age to leave on the present occasion, which

that they looked quite young enough to be jurors, they accordingly got into the box.

It appears that by the Act the clerk of the peace is to receive a warrant for his list to be made, and in July the same is received, and in September exhibited on board door, under a Act of Parliament exemption, not to exceed 1000 persons the names of persons are returned who have removed or died.

POLICE.

BIRMINGHAM, 25th JUNE.—A man was charged before Mr. Tyrwhitt with breaking and entering No. 57, St. James's-street, and stealing a dressing-case with silver settings, a quantity of jewellery, consisting of diamond brooches, gold earrings, Bank of England notes, gold, &c., the whole of the property being of the value of £100.

The prisoner was brought to the court handcuffed, and appeared in the dock without coat or waistcoat. He gave the name of Philip Oliver.

Mr. Henry Fershouse said: I reside at Southport, near Liverpool, my business of an attorney being carried on at Liverpool. About half-past one this morning, at Bowlin's Hotel, St. James's-street, where I was staying, I was woken by my wife, stating that there was a man in the room. I heard footsteps at the door, and on turning the night-light I saw the shirt-sleeves of a man who was leaving the room by the door. I jumped out of bed and followed him into the dining-room. I got close up to the door, when the prisoner pulled it to, and I then heard a rattle of something fall. I afterwards found that the noise I had heard was caused by the prisoner letting fall my wife's dress-glass. The case, which was locked then, on the previous night, contained a quantity of jewellery, consisting of diamond and gold brooches, a quantity of money, &c., of considerable value. I afterwards, with others, searched the rooms and discovered the prisoner, from under a bed in a bedroom. He said, "Don't choke me!" but nothing else. After the prisoner was taken to the station, I went there and identified a gold pencil-case taken from the prisoner as my property. I had been taken from a small travelling-case left in my bedroom, and the bag had been broken open.

Mr. Howelin, proprietor of the hotel, said: This morning, about half-past one, I heard an alarm from Mr. Fershouse, who said a person in his shirt-sleeves had been in his bedroom, and had made his escape, as he supposed, by the back window, on which there were finger-marks. On searching under the bed of Sir E. Willmett we found the prisoner. There were no marks on the doors. I believe the prisoner must have got in at the back window, which was sometimes left open for the purpose of ventilation.

Mr. Tyrwhitt committed the prisoner (who no doubt had entered the house in his shirt-sleeves so as to pass for a Lodger) for trial.

POLICEMAN'S LAW.—Thomas Jones, a stable-helper, was charged with obstructing the police in the execution of their duty.

Policeman—It caused an obstruction outside Cremorne Gardens, by calling a cab out of the middle of the rank.

Mr. Arnold—What did he call it for?

Policeman—For two ladies and a gentleman.

Mr. Arnold—Is there any harm in that?

Policeman—It obstructs the working of the rank.

Mr. Arnold—I don't understand you, I am afraid. Do you say that the set of which you complain against this man is that he called a cab for two ladies and a gentleman who were at Cremorne?

Policeman—Yes, that is correct, Sir; that men and others who are there of a night are a great nuisance.

Mr. Arnold—In what respect?

Policeman—There were several of them, and if they see ladies and gentlemen coming out of the gardens they run and get cab for them.

Mr. Arnold—Then your complaint against this man is that he is of great public convenience; and I cannot understand what cause of complaint can be.

Policeman—They cause an obstruction, and prevent the cabs going up to the gate in a proper way. This man took the cab from the middle of the rank, which prevented them working fairly.

Mr. Arnold—What difference is there between this man and another? Everybody has a right to pick a cab from the middle of the rank if he pleases, and, of course, while persons are getting into it there is necessarily an obstruction for the moment. Would you have taken a gentleman into custody for so calling a cab?

Policeman—No, Sir, I should not.

Mr. Arnold—Is what you have stated against the defendant the charge for which you have brought him here?

Policeman—It is, your Worship.

Mr. Arnold—T'en di-di charge him. You had no right to take him into custody. I cannot make out the slightest offence against the prisoner; it was perfect non-sense to charge him.

ANOTHER CAB CASE.—Henry Dawes, cab-driver, of 8, Ancher-road, Holloway-road, appeared to a summons cut out by Francis Kidd, charged with refusing to drive him.

ENGLISH CURRENCY.—Wheat, Evesham, red, 52s; white, 50s; ditto, white, 50s to 58s; grinding barley, 25s to 28s; distilling ditto, 30s to 32s; malting, new, 3s to 4s; rye, 32s; malt, 50s to 56s; feed, 1s 18s to 2s 10s; potato, 6s to 8s, 2s to 2s 10s; turnips, 3s to 3s 10s; grey peas, 3s 4s to 3s 10s; white ditto, 3s to 3s 10s; town-made flour, 3s to 5s; country marks, 5s to 10s; town households, 4s to 4s 10s; per cwt.

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